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"Whatsoever doth make manifest is Light."

VOLUME X.

EMBOOYING

1.—THEOCRATIC PHILOSOPHY.—2.—SIGNS AND SYMBOLS.

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TO
JAMES PENN, ESQ.,
OF
MEMPHIS, TENN.,
P. G. MASTER OF ALABAMA, &c., &c.;
WHOSE ARDOR IN A GENIAL
CAUSE, FREEMASONRY, AGE CANNOT COOL,
NOR ENGROSSING AVOCATIONS MAKE UNFEUTFUL;
WHOSE NAME IS ENGRAVED UPON THE WALLS OF THE
MASONIC TEMPLE OF THE LAST GENERATION, IN CHARAC-
TERS TIME WILL KINDLY SPARE; A BROTHER TRUE
AND TRUSTY, DEVOTED TO THE LANDMARKS OLD
AND SAFE, AND ABHORRING INNOVATION
FROM WHATEVER SOURCE;
THIS TENTH VOLUME
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THE
THEOCRATIC
PHILOSOPHY OF FREEMASONRY,
IN TWELVE LECTURES,
ON ITS
SPECULATIVE, OPERATIVE, AND SPURIOUS BRANCHES.

BY THE
REV. G. OLIVER, D.D.,
INCUMBENT OF THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH, WOLVERHAMPTON; D. P. G. M.
FOR LINCOLNSHIRE; DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD KENSINGTON; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY
OF ANTIQUARIES, SCOTLAND.



Ex fumo dare lucem.

Hon.

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P R E F A C E.

IN the present extension of Freemasonry, when it flourishes abundantly in every quarter of the globe, and embraces many objects of research, which our brethren, even of the eighteenth century, did not entertain; and when spurious rituals have been offered to public notice, professing to contain a description of the entire secrets, pursuits, and machinery of the Craft, it becomes a duty of no inconsiderable moment, to place the Institution on its proper basis, as a society which blends science and morals, unites benevolence and philosophy, and displays an example of paternal union which is sought in vain amidst other scenes in these times of religious and political excitement.

The pure philosophy of Freemasonry is embodied in the legitimate Lectures of the Three Degrees. These form the Text on which the scientific Mason loves to expatiate. He draws from this fountain his materials for dissertation and research; and the improvement of his mind becomes commensurate with the extent to which he carries his investigations. To make a satisfactory progress in this sublime study, a previous knowledge of the routine business and Lectures of the Lodge is indispensable. The practical working Mason is best qualified to estimate the beauties of its theory, provided he have acquired also a competent knowledge of its history and antiquities, and possess the requisite zeal and

industry to surmount the difficulties which impede his first attempts to explore the hidden stores of Freemasonry.

It is a matter of extreme regret to the well-informed portion of the fraternity, that Freemasonry, as it is practised in some of our Lodges, offers to the candidate few opportunities for satisfying his enquiries on the subject of its refined philosophy, and affords little aid towards the enlightenment of his mind on those abstruse subjects which none can understand without the labour and assiduity which are prompted by a zealous desire to excel. It is for the satisfaction of this class of enquirers that the Author has been induced to publish a consecutive series of Lectures, all of which are intended to contribute to the same end, viz., the honour of Masonry as a moral and scientific institution—the instruction of the brethren—and the glory of the Most High; in the anticipation that they may lead, at no very distant period, to the formation of Lodges in the metropolis, and the populous manufacturing and marine towns of England, in this age of literary improvement and refined taste, where the leisure of talented brethren may be exclusively devoted to a minute investigation of the genuine principles of the Order; that the true and valuable pursuits of science may be substituted for unimportant observances on the one hand, and on the other, an extended conviviality which may terminate in debauch.

It is in the pursuits of philosophy, blended with those great principles of the Order, active benevolence and universal charity, that Freemasonry claims our unmitigated esteem. *That* fills our bosoms with the undisguised love of our species; *this* shews our love to be sincere by its practical development in our commerce with the world and with each other. *That* stores the mind with a pure religious feeling, by tracing the works of nature, till they lead to reflections on the immensity

of power—the triumphs of wisdom and goodness of Him, who constructed the vast machine of the universe for the advantage of his creatures;—this evinces our gratitude and reverence, by inciting us to “act on the square” with the worthy and the good, whatever may be the external circumstances in which they are placed by the just and equitable decree of Providence. In any other point of view Freemasonry is human—here it is divine. This consideration encircles it with the luminous rays that enlighten the “glory in the centre,” and confer its real dignity and value. It is the THEOCRATIC PHILOSOPHY OF FREEMASONRY that commands our unqualified esteem, and seals in our heart that love for the Institution which will produce an active religious faith and practice; and lead, in the end, to “a building not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

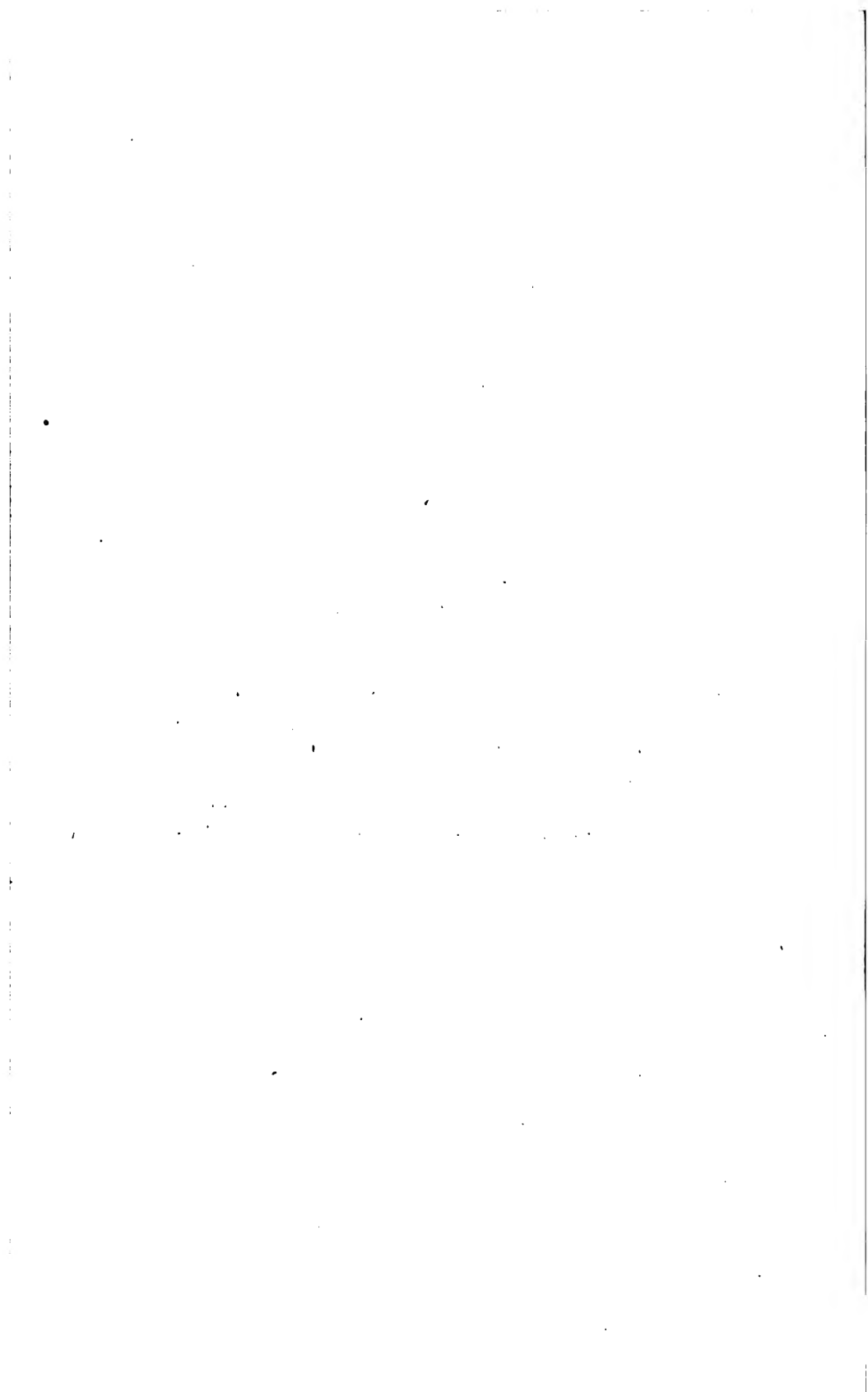
Such being the professed design of the following work, little need be said on the principle of its construction. A view of the Institution has been taken under every form which it has assumed throughout the long series of ages that have intervened from the creation to the days in which we live. It is admitted that ample justice has not been done to the diversity of subjects which presented themselves to the Author's attention; because, in a field so wide, twelve short Lectures is a space too limited to afford scope for all the important investigations to which they naturally give rise; but it is hoped that much important information has been communicated, which may direct the learned reader's view to subjects which his previous knowledge of the art may render interesting, and which the disquisitions suggested by his own ingenuity may illustrate and confirm. And if the fraternity should admit that the Author has succeeded in displaying a connected view of the science in all its principal divisions; if he have correctly traced its progress in the ancient world, until it assumed the form

under which it now appears; if he have satisfactorily shewn that the great object of the Institution is to promote the glory of God and the good of mankind; the testimony will be highly gratifying to his feelings; and he will not regret the time and attention which have been bestowed on the composition of the Work.

A spirit of enquiry distinguishes all ranks of men in the present day. Every art and every science forms a subject of public disquisition in our literary societies and institutions; and it is unreasonable to expect that the pursuits of Freemasonry will escape enquiry amidst that universal curiosity which now animates mankind to search into the hidden secrets of nature, and to detect each process by which her various changes are produced and modified. Our Institution pervades all classes of society, in every region of the globe; and it is not to be expected that the uninitiated will be satisfied with our pretensions, except they be borne out by an appearance, at the least, of superiority; and it cannot be denied that Freemasonry, previously to the present century, had not kept pace with the scientific improvement of the times. A dearth of masonic publications was acknowledged and lamented by our most worthy brethren; and, from this unpropitious circumstance, the Order was in evident danger of sinking in public estimation. From that period a new era has commenced; talented individuals no longer refuse to honour our Institution with their avowed patronage, as our philosophy becomes better understood; because it is defensible on grounds that are equally honourable and just; and this accounts for its extension amongst the aristocracy both of talent and wealth; and the distinction with which the fraternity is favoured in every country where superior civilization has elevated the dignity of man.

A decision on the manner in which the following Work is executed, must be submitted to the reader's judgment.

Various opinions may exist upon this point. The Author has consulted the taste of every reader, and flatters himself that he has not been altogether unsuccessful. The scholar may derive some gratification, if not instruction, from the manner in which the subject is treated in reference to the usages of a remote antiquity, about which written records afford little aid to enlighten the path; while the practical Mason may reap much information from the latter division of the subject; and a fair portion of general knowledge will result from a candid perusal of the whole course. The industrious Brother who takes up the volume with a view of assisting his recollection, or improving his mind, will not, it is presumed, bestow his time in vain; and while he may derive amusement from a view of the various forms which the Order has assumed in different countries, and under divers modes of organization, he will not fail to augment his masonic resources, and become more impressed with the beauty and moral usefulness of the Institution into which he has been admitted. *Hæc studia adolescentiam alunt, senectutem oblectant, secundas res ornant, adversis solatium et perfugium præbent, delectant domi, non impediunt foris, pernoctant nobiscum, peregrinantur, rusticantur.* Cic.



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THE
THEOCRATIC PHILOSOPHY.
OF
FREEMASONRY.

THE THEOCRATIC
PHILOSOPHY OF FREEMASONRY.

LECTURE I.

SPECULATIVE MASONRY EXAMINED UNDER ITS DENOMINATION OF LUX.

O'er all were seen the Cherubins of LIGHT,
Like pillar'd flowers amidst the falling night;
So high it rose, so bright the mountains shone,
It seem'd the footstool of Jehoyah's throne.

James Montgomery.

Hail, holy Light!

Milton.

FREEMASONRY, in its primitive and ineffable state, was an institution of pure, ethereal Light. But light was Heaven,¹ the eternal seat of the divinity, and a place of absolute perfection and happiness. It follows, therefore, that Freemasonry is synonymous with eternity, undefiled charity, or heaven. In conformity with this definition, we derive heaven *οὐρανοῦ* from the Hebrew *Aur*, Light; because it is above the mountains *οὐρα*.² And hence probably sprang the opinion of Eugubinus and others,

¹ Col. i. 12.

² Thus mountains and high places were considered throughout all antiquity, as being more eminently adapted to the purposes of devotion.

that Light was the supreme empyrean or local habitation of the Deity, which always shone with surpassing splendour; because the Eternal himself was believed to be the source and origin of Light. In all his communications with man, Light has been his constant attendant; or, in the felicitous language of David, "he clothed himself with Light as with a garment."

The Holy Book which constitutes the furniture of the Pedestal, is full of testimonies to this effect. God is termed by the prophet Isaiah, the Light of Israel. Daniel says, the Light dwelleth with him; and Habakkuk compares his brightness to the Light. Simeon calls him a Light to lighten the Gentiles. The glory of that Light appeared to Saul at his conversion, and to Peter at his miraculous deliverance from prison. St. John affirms that God is Light; and in another place, that he is the true Light; which is confirmed by the Saviour in these remarkable words, "I am the Light of the world."

On this view of the subject, primitive Freemasonry may be referred to the Light of Wisdom, which the Almighty Architect of the Universe possessed "in the beginning of his way before his works of old;"³ which was "present when he made the heavens, and assisted in setting a compass on the face of the abyss;"⁴ and having been communicated "at sundry times and in divers manners"⁵ to mankind; it serves as "a lantern to the feet,"⁶ and "a light that is never extinguished."⁷ This Wisdom or Light is, indeed, "the breath of the power of God;"⁸ a pure influence flowing from the eternal source of Light; compassing the whole circuit of heaven,⁹ and forming the architrave of pure and holy religion. It is to be observed that Solomon, our Grand Master, speaking masonically, generally used the word Wisdom as a substitute for Light. And thus also it is asserted in the Book *de divinis hominibus*, ascribed to Dionysius the Areopagite, that "this is the most divine knowledge of God, according to the union that is above understanding, when the mind, getting at a distance from all things that are, and having dismissed itself, is united to those *superillustris*

³ Prov. viii. 22.

⁴ Prov. viii. 27.

⁵ Heb. i. 1.

⁶ Ps. cxix. 105.

⁷ Wisd. vii. 10.

⁸ Ib. vi. i. 25.

⁹ Eccl. xiv. 5.

Beams, from whence and where it is enlightened in the unfathomable depths of *Wisdom*."

In all the divine manifestations which have been vouchsafed to man, it was necessary to accommodate the grossness of his nature, by the use of a visible and material Light. But it must be understood, throughout the present Lecture, that this was only a symbol, or a mild emanation of the glorious Light which illuminates the celestial regions. This is evident from the evangelist's description of the heavenly kingdom: "the glory of God doth lighten it, and the Lamb is the Light thereof." This Light, or Freemasonry, so to term it, was peculiarly intellectual. A Light adapted to spiritual faculties—the Light of God's word and spirit. It was enunciated with equal perspicuity by the Jewish prophets. Thus Isaiah says, that in those blessed mansions "the sun shall be no more their Light by day, neither for brightness shall the moon give Light; but the Lord shall be an everlasting Light." It is evident, therefore, that the Light of heaven is supernal and intellectual; and that a gross material Light will be unnecessary to its glorified inhabitants; of whose complete illumination we are at present unable to form any just or rational opinion. It has been correctly termed "a glorious lustre, filling all heaven—an abyss of Light, in which the imagination is lost."

This luminous principle is represented in our Lodges by the *First Great Light*, and symbolized by *Three Lesser Lights*; which, being material, point out palpably to the senses, a reference to the operation of Light on the mind, as held forth in the three true religious systems which will extend from the creation to the destruction of the globe which we inhabit; viz. the Patriarchal, the Mosaic, and the Christian dispensations. Again, the eyes of the Second person in the Trinity are represented as a flame of fire.¹⁰ Now, "fire is a symbol of intellectuality, especially a flaming fire that implies Light. Thus we read of the *fiery intellect* in the Magic oracles, and of *shining fire* attributed to the soul, as being a certain divine and intellectual essence, as Plethon speaks. Wherefore the Logos is rightly said to have eyes like a flaming fire,

¹⁰ Rev. xiv. 12.

because he is not only intellectual, but that great and eternal Intellect from whence all intellectual beings are; as also their operations, exercised by virtue of the more pure, and ethereal, and igneous spirits."¹¹ The subject, therefore, can be treated only as the Almighty himself has condescended to treat it, in pity to the weakness and incapacity of his creatures, viz. by a reference to material fire and Light, under which his personal appearance has been manifested amongst men.

These preliminary ideas naturally direct our attention to the divine SHEKINAH, or blaze of Light which usually accompanied the divine appearance on earth. It consisted of a visible splendour, or pure emanation of the Deity, and has been termed *splendor gloriæ Dei*, as St. Paul described the glory of Moses' countenance when he returned from the mount. This Light, in the form probably of a bright cloud, conversed with Adam in paradise.¹² After his unhappy Fall, Light guarded the entrance of this blissful abode, that no profane steps might penetrate to the tree of life. The same spiritual Light confirmed the piety of Abel, and probably conveyed Enoch to the eternal regions of Light, without tasting the bitterness of death. From this time to the Flood, it has been thought the Shekinah was withdrawn, on account of the increasing wickedness of men.¹³ This, however, does not seem to be borne out by sufficient testimony; for it is certain that God conversed with Noah on the subject of the Earth's corruptions; destroyed the world by water united with Fire;¹⁴ confounded the language at Babel,

¹¹ More. Apoc. p. 197.

¹² Gen. ii. 16. Dr. Lamb, (Hierogl. p. 82.) says that the image by which our first parent communicated his knowledge of the Creator to his descendants, was a picture of that vision of the cherubim which appeared to Ezekiel and St. John; and that the Hebrew letters or hieroglyphics for a man, an ox, a lion, and an eagle being put together, produces the phonetic word *ELOHIM*; and this he thinks was the origin of animal worship.

¹³ Ovid's fable of Astræa fleeing to heaven in consequence of the world's impiety, appears to be a tradition of this probability.—Metam. i. 149.

¹⁴ Pionus, who suffered martyrdom in the year 250, under the Emperor Decius, thus addressed his persecutors: "You yourselves, from your old traditions acknowledged that the deluge of Noah, whom you call Deucalion, was mingled with fire, &c."—Pont. Hist. Norw. p. 52. See also Whiston's Cause of the Deluge illustrated.

and on every occasion manifested his displeasure against sinners—for Speculative Masonry had its system of Justice as well as Mercy—and confirmed the faith of the righteous, by imparting a portion of that Light and Truth, which constitute the divine essence; *humiles per claritatem sua ostensionis illuminat*; a striking evidence of His approval of that system of religion which was practised by the holy patriarchs.

This supernal Light protected Abraham in the fiery furnace of the Chaldees, as it did subsequently Shadrach, Mesech, and Abednego, in that of Nebuchadnezzar; shewing that while the divinity assumed the appearance of “a wall of fire”¹⁵ for the protection of his people, he was “a consuming fire”¹⁶ for the destruction of their enemies. Abraham enjoyed the advantage of frequent revelations of Light from on high; and the same Shekinah destroyed the cities of the plain. It was a gracious manifestation of Light that the Almighty vouchsafed to Jacob, when, benighted and weary on his journey to Padanaram, he saw the vision of that wonderful Ladder, with Seraphim ascending and descending, which was intended to increase his Faith, encourage his Hope, and animate his Charity, while the Great Architect of the Universe, in a flood of Light at its summit, gave him those cheering promises which were so amply fulfilled in his posterity.

Moses, at the Burning Bush, was favoured with the inspiration of Light, and received that holy and incommunicable name which still constitutes the awful Secret of Speculative Masonry. The Shekinah, manifested on this important occasion, was a very significant symbol. The Bush burned with fire but was not consumed; and Israel was subjected to the fiery oppression of Egypt, and was not destroyed; although possessing no greater power of resistance against Pharaoh and his people than the feeble bush to prevent the encroachments of the devouring element. The truth is, God was in the midst of both; and, therefore, fire and persecution were equally powerless. Moses was here instructed to approach the majesty of God with his feet bare, and his face covered; and it was not till the deliverance of Israel

¹⁵ Zech. ii. 5.

¹⁶ Heb. xii. 29.

from bondage that the Light shone permanently amongst them.

The preparations for this remarkable Deliverance were solemn and imposing; and the difference between the Darkness of idolatry and the Light of Truth, or, in other words, between the Spurious and the true Freemasonry, was specially manifested for the instruction of the Israelites, as well as the punishment of the Egyptians. A thick and tangible darkness was upon the latter for three days. All business ceased—no man moved from the place where this awful visitation overtook him—fields, houses, streets, and highways were peopled with living statues; food was not sought—rest unheeded; and terror and dread the only feelings which prevailed. There they stood, each as in a cell of darkness—monuments of the divine displeasure; wondering in silence and solitude what the result of such an unlooked for judgment might be. Visions, like the dramatic scenery of their Spurious Freemasonry, flitted before their imagination;¹⁷ awful shapes, heart-rending lamentations, and gibbering noises, as if in mockery of the darkness, which was celebrated in those institutions by divine honours and loud acclamations.¹⁸ But the Israelites had Light in their dwellings. They were illuminated by the true Shekinah, or Light of Heaven; which was a mystery to the Egyptians equally incomprehensible with the preternatural darkness in which they themselves were shrouded. The Light shone in darkness, but the darkness comprehended it not.

From this time the Light took the form of a pillar of Cloud and of Fire, which in the day time was bright, and perhaps transparent; and at night was like a fierce fire of ample dimensions to enlighten a camp of twelve miles square. It may be objected that the heat of such a fire would have consumed the tents, the tabernacle, and every thing within its focus. But this was no natural or elemental fire, for it existed without fuel; and, like the fire at the Burning Bush, its consuming properties were restrained, although it retained sufficient light for the most distant tribes. In a word, it was the cloudy Pillar,

¹⁷ Wisd. xvii. 14. &c.

¹⁸ Euseb. præp. evan. l. iii. 9. Damascius.

illuminated by the Shekinah of God. This divine Pillar took its station amongst the people, and formed the sublime object of Jewish Freemasonry. It continued with them during all the fluctuations of their history, till their renunciation of the true, and abandonment to the abominations of the Spurious Freemasonry, induced the Almighty to withdraw the Light of his presence, and give up their city and temple to the rage and fury of an idolatrous people.

Nothing could have been assumed to point out, in a more clear and explicit manner, the essential difference between Light and Darkness, than the divine Shekinah at the period when Israel passed through the Red Sea. It was a Light and a guide to them, but a darkness and a terror to their unhappy pursuers, who were annihilated by the junction of the waters, when Moses lifted up his rod as a signal that the power which restrained them had been withdrawn.

It was the Shekinah of God that appeared in clouds and fire on the holy mountain when the Law was delivered to Moses. The mountain was clothed in darkness, and nothing but the smoke or cloud was visible to the people; while the legislator at the summit was favoured with a view of the Shekinah as a lambent flame of Light, out of which Jehovah conversed with him on the religious and political government of the people whom he had redeemed, with signs and wonders, from the power of the Egyptians. The dark clond has been thought to symbolize the law of Moses, which was a type of the Light of the Gospel. *Congruit*, says Borrhaius, *nubes in functionem legalem quæ tenebrarum est non Lucis*; intimating that the true Light would not be made perfect till the advent of the Messiah; and Christianity contains the most complete system of morals that ever was proposed to the mind of man.

It was an emanation of the Shekinah which illuminated the countenance of Moses when he descended from the mountain where he had conversed with the Almighty face to face.

——— and we
Shall one day, if found worthy, so defin'd,
See our God face to face as he did then
His Holy of Holies, nor be blasted by his brow.

Byron.

This glory was imparted *ad honorem legis*, and as a special token of God's love and favour towards this meek and holy patriarch. It may likewise be considered as an unquestionable credential, whence the people might be assured of his divine commission, and hold him, as the vicegerent of God, in greater reverence and esteem. They were unable to endure the lustre proceeding from the reflected brightness of the Shekinah—a striking evidence that their minds were not sufficiently enlightened to bear the revelation of the mysterious system which was typified by the Law. Moses, therefore, drew a veil over his face as a token that “their minds were blinded;” and that though the true Light was shadowed forth, gloriously indeed, in the Jewish religion, it would not be fully developed till the veil was removed by the appearance of the Messiah, or Light personified. These emanations of the Deity form constituent parts of the system of Speculative Masonry, as it is practised at the present day.

In the wilderness, Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and their company, were punished by the Shekinah for endeavouring, illegally, to intrude themselves into the priest's office; and it was the same divine Light that manifested itself in mercy or indignation on various signal occasions. Gregory and others think that this mixture of mercy and justice was symbolized by the mild and bright cloud which led them by day, and the terrible fire by night.¹⁹ And it was always accompanied by a subdued radiance of that holy Light which shone in heaven before the worlds were created.

I have already remarked that the Creator was called “the Father of Light.” Iamblichus, in his Book of Mysteries, agrees with this interpretation; for he says that “Light is the simplicity, the penetration, and the ubiquity of God.” And it is remarkable that the earliest inhabitants of Egypt, the source, probably, of Spurious Freemasonry, were called Auritæ, from the Hebrew or Chaldaic root *Aur*, LIGHT. If this be true, the Egyptians did not gather the above idea of Light from a tradition of the power of Moses, and the pillar of fire which destroyed the army of Pharaoh, because the probability is that they entertained some such notions before the

¹⁹ Greg. Hom. 21. in Evan.

Israelites came into their land. The transactions of Moses might add strength to their previously conceived opinions, and invest the subject with a solemnity which might make it worthy of more special notice in their Spurious Freemasonry. Many of the natives accompanied Moses at the Exodus; and some would probably return and repeat the wonders which they had seen in the wilderness; all of which were accomplished by the agency of God's Shekinah—fire or Light. To such communications, the people, as well as the priests, would attach considerable importance, from the fact of their monarch and his whole army having disappeared in so mysterious a manner before an unarmed multitude of all sexes and ages, arranged without order, and ignorant of military discipline.²⁰

I cannot but think that Lux was shadowed forth in the Urim and Thummim of the High Priest. Urim signified Light, and Thummim, Perfection. These appendages were invested with such an impenetrable mystery, that, if their real signification was known to the High Priest, it was never revealed; for the Jewish Rabbins differ materially in their conjectures respecting their use and application. The High Priest was certainly acquainted with their use as oracles; for there does not appear to have been the least ambiguity about them, nor any difficulty in their interpretation. The supposition most to my present purpose is, that the Teraphim mentioned by the prophet Hosea, as being withdrawn from the Jewish nation, were the identical Urim. Now Teraphim²¹ was

²⁰ The Druids of Britain, like the Egyptians, appear to have entertained some idea of the Supreme Being clothed in Light, as is evident from the following passage in an old British Poem :

The smallest, if compared with small,
Is the mighty Hu, in the world's judgment
And he is the greatest, and Lord over us,
And our God of mystery.
LIGHT is his course, and rapid.
A particle of lucid sunshine is his car.

²¹ The Teraph has, by some authorities, been differently interpreted. Rabbi Eleazer holds, that it was made of the head of a male child, the first born, and that dead born, under whose tongue they applied a lamina of gold, whereon were engraved the characters and inscriptions of certain planets which the Jews superstitiously wandered up and down with, instead of the Urim and Thummim, or the Ephod of the High Priest. (Notes to Thalaba, B. X.) It will, however, be generally believed, that the opinion in the text is the most rational.

but another word for Seraphim, or angels of Light—the true Freemasons of the sky—ministering spirits, continually ascending and descending from earth to heaven, and from heaven to earth, to receive and disseminate divine commissions for the benefit of man; and serving on great occasions as the chariot of the Deity.

On Cherubim and Seraphim
Full royally he rode.
Sternhold.

These holy spirits were symbolized in the seven lamps, or inferior Shekinah, mentioned by Zechariah. They are denominated “the eyes of the Lord which run to and fro through the whole earth;” and St. John compares them to “a flame of fire.” Urim and Thummim conjointly signified the *Light of Truth*, or divine inspiration. And this high quality of perfect judgment was vested in the High Priest, when clothed in his seven ceremonial garments as the representative and vicegerent of the Deity. Like the Urim, the Shekinah was a pure Light—a fire that burned not—Light and flame combined without heat;²² a striking symbol of that intellectual Light which will impart its rays into our souls, if, with sincere and upright intentions, we seek the knowledge of God, and worship him in spirit and in truth. The Pectoral of the High Priest was enlightened by Urim in the same manner (only inferior, perhaps, in degree,) as the Shekinah illuminated the ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies. It was Light—pure Light—that constituted the essence of both. Hence the High Priest was sometimes honoured with the title of THE DIVINE WORD. And truly, for he was the substitute and type of the Messiah; or, in other words, the Logos of the Logos.

King David was favoured with a glimpse of this divine Light, when the Almighty at Ephrata revealed to him the place which he had selected as the site of the intended temple, and he frequently celebrates the presence of God in his sanctuary. But to Solomon, the Grand

²² Oppose to this description of supreme Light, the ever-burning fire of hell. It is represented as a flaming fire—a fire that never can be quenched; and yet *it is a place of absolute and profound darkness.* Thus, as the Shekinah was a flame that gave Light but did not burn—so the fire of hell burns, but gives no Light.

Master of Freemasonry, it was fully revealed at the dedication of the temple. At this period occurred the most awful display of the Light shining in Darkness. "The house was filled with a cloud, so that the Priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud. Then said Solomon—the Lord hath said that he would dwell in *the thick darkness.*" The solemnity of that darkness was enlightened by the Shekinah, and nothing else was visible, until this lucid appearance rested between the cherubim of the Mercy Seat.

Some theological writers conceive that darkness, when thus opposed to Light, was intended to represent the deplorable state of intellectual blindness in which those persons were unfortunately placed who had renounced their allegiance to the Most High, and practised the senseless idolatry that emanated from the unholy caverns where the rites and ceremonies of Spurious Freemasonry were celebrated. *Superbos per caliginem erroris obscurat.* Others refer it to the weakness of man's understanding; which, even under the influence of revelation, is unable to form any rational idea of the glory of God, who, as we are informed by St. Paul, "dwelleth in Light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen or can see," in this frail state of imbecility and ignorance.

The Shekinah, or Light, was revealed to Elijah on Mount Horeb; and to Isaiah in the temple. Gloriously to Ezekiel, when "a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire unfolding itself, and a brightness was about it; and out of the midst thereof, as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire." And still more gloriously to Daniel; for he himself says, "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit; whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was like a fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. *A fiery stream issued and came forth before him.*" In this vision Daniel not only beheld the Light illuminating the darkness, but also saw the Son of Man coming in a Shekinah of Clouds to take possession of his everlasting kingdom.

These favoured individuals had a very indistinct notion of the *mystery* to which such splendid revelations of Light referred. They had drank, it is true, of the living fountains of knowledge, although, when composing their

prophecies "under the influence of that inspiration which dictated whatever was conducive to the promotion of God's designs, they delivered both sentiments and expressions of which they themselves understood not always the full importance and extent. Sensible of the predominating power, they communicated their divine intelligence as the spirit gave utterance; conveying prophecies of which neither they nor their hearers probably perceived the full scope, nor foresaw distinctly the spiritual accomplishment, writing for the advantage of those who were to come after, and to furnish evidence in support of a future dispensation."²²

After the punishment of the Jewish nation for the neglect of their sabbatical years, by the captivity in Babylon, this branch of Speculative Masonry was withdrawn till the eve of a better dispensation; and its absence was lamented with tears and loud wailings. Darkness was finally cast, as a mantle, over the minds of that favoured race, whose ancestors had possessed, but misapplied, all the advantages of Lux, or Speculative Masonry; and that darkness will remain, until, in God's good time, the veil shall be removed, and the Shekinah of their forefathers be manifested with such lucid brightness, as to open their hearts for a reception of the glorious truths of revealed religion.

In process of time the divine Shekinah again appeared in the likeness of a miraculous Star, overshadowing the place where He abode in whom "dwelt the fulness of the Godhead bodily."²⁴ Isaiah had prophesied of the Messiah under the name of Light;²³ and accordingly when he came he denominated himself "the Light of the world;" and was described by his beloved disciple as "the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." He appeared on earth with the benevolent purpose of enlightening his benighted creatures with the rays of Light and Truth; and teaching them the way to heaven, the seat of eternal and universal Light, by the three principal steps of the Theological Ladder. The Light again shone in darkness, but the darkness comprehended it not. It was in reference to this mild and benig-

²² Gray's Key to the Old Test. p. 338.

²³ Col. ii. 9.

²⁴ Isai. ix. 2.

nant appearance of the Shekinah, that the Jewish prophet burst out into that magnificent strain of rejoicing at the prospect of salvation being offered to the Gentiles. "Arise, shine, for thy Light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy Light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."

The holy Shekinah of Light was visibly manifested at the baptism of Christ, and at his mysterious transfiguration. And as the presence of God in the cloudy pillar of the tabernacle was full of glory, so was the cloud which overshadowed Christ on these occasions much more glorious; for he was the brightness of God's glory, and the express image of his person; and in the latter instance his face is represented as shining like the sun, and his raiment as being white as the Light. He permitted the glory of the indwelling Deity to appear for a few seconds, to enlighten the eyes and irradiate the understanding of his ravishing beholders. They were, indeed, enraptured with the vision; but he restrained their transports, by desiring them to keep the event an inviolable secret until after his resurrection. At his crucifixion, darkness covered the whole face of nature, as a striking emblem that the Light of heaven had suffered a partial extinction upon earth; but, at his resurrection, the Light again appeared, and paralyzed the Roman soldiers who watched at the sepulchre; and was displayed at his public ascension into heaven.

From these appearances it has been thought that Christ was symbolized by the Urim and Thummim. Calvin, Marbuchi, and others, thus explain the Breastplate of Judgment: "The Urim, which is interpreted Light, shewed that in Christ are laid up all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge: and Thummim, which betokeneth Perfection, was a sign or symbol of perfect purity, which is to be sought only in Christ. And both signify, that as without Christ there is nothing but darkness and sin, so he is our illumination and perfection." Archbishop Tenison asserts that the Shekinah or Light was Christ. On this holy vessel of Christ's body, when he was baptised by John in Jordan, the Shekinah appear-

ed; a mighty lustre, as Grotius hinteth, hovering, after the fashion of a dove, upon these waters of the second creation. On him the Holy Ghost dwelt, or rested, as God was said to do in the tabernacle. In him, as the law of God in the ark, and the will of God, known from the oracle of the Shekinah, were deposited all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. He is the great oracle of God; whom by a voice from heaven, *out of a bright cloud*, or God's excellent glory, we are commanded to hear. The fathers will have it, that when in his childhood he went into Egypt, and was brought to Memphis, the Egyptian idols fell at his feet."²⁸

This interpretation of the Shekinah or Light, appears to have been the *mystery* so frequently referred to in the New Testament. Thus Christ himself said: "I will utter things which have been *kept secret from the foundation of the world*." St. Paul repeatedly expresses himself to the same effect. To the Romans he speaks of *a mystery* which was *kept secret* since the world began." To the Ephesians he also refers to "*the mystery* which, from the beginning of the world, *hath been hidden*." And the expression in the original does not vary, when he reminds the Colossians of "*a mystery that hath been hid from ages*." The secret which so frequently constituted the subject of scripture prophecy, must have been of vast importance. It had been carefully concealed from all the world, except a select few in every age, and they were not favoured with a clear conception of its nature and end. Thus it continued an ineffable mystery which the angels of heaven desired to look into, from the beginning of time. The great exultation which was displayed amongst the hosts of heaven, is described in the Apocalypse, when Christ was declared worthy to open the Book of SECRETS; into which neither angels, men, nor infernal spirits were thought worthy to look. This inviolable mystery was no other than the revelation of Light, or scripture morality, by the true Shekinah of God, during a visible and bodily appearance on earth. And to whom was this Light revealed? St. Paul tells us that it was first communicated to the Apostles, and from them it passed to all who should faithfully receive it. And thus

²⁸ Ten. Idol. p. 372, 374.

was fulfilled a series of remarkable predictions uttered by the prophet Isaiah. "*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great Light*; they that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the Light shined," And again, "he will destroy the *covering* cast over all people; and *the veil* that is spread over all nations." For this reason the Messiah was termed *ανατολη*, the East;²⁷ because in the prophetic style the East signified Revelation, or the moral light of God. The prophet Zechariah, according to the Septuagint, says: "Behold the man whose name is the East;" and again: "I send my servant *the East*." The same phraseology is preserved by Zacharias, speaking under the influence of Light. "The day spring (*the East*) from on high hath visited us, to give Light to them that sit in darkness;" for the prophet Malachi had said that when the time was accomplished for the revelation of this ineffable secret, the Shekinah, or *Sun of Righteousness* "*should arise* (in the East) with healing on his wings."

We have no reason to believe that the Shekinah was withdrawn at the ascension of Christ; although, so far as regards the science of Speculative Masonry, it forms a subject of sublime speculation and unceasing interest. This beatific principle continued to enlighten saints and holy men until the temple was finally destroyed, and true religion so firmly established as to need no *visible* manifestation from on high. It appeared in a glorious Light to the first martyr Stephen, who "saw the glory of God, and Jesus Christ standing on the right hand of God." It was manifested to Saul in so vehement a Light as for a time to deprive him of his vision. And at Pentecost the Holy Ghost was commissioned to be, as it were, a substitute for the Shekinah, and appeared in the form of fire hovering over the Apostles. Bishop Andrews, citing Eusebius, says: "the glory of Christ is now much greater than it appeared on the mount of transfiguration; with which, if his apostles were then dazzled, how can it be now expressed?" And this glory is described by St. John as "the God Omnipotent; the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; appearing on his throne of Light crowned, and with eyes like flames of fire."

²⁷ This word signifies not only *the rising of the Sun*, but *the place where it first appears*.

The consecutive manifestations of the Deity, in the visible form of a Cloud, Fire, and Light, produced some very remarkable effects upon the nations of the earth. In their search after the true Light, which they had good reason to believe would contribute vitally to their spurious systems, the heathen fell into many grievous errors. The Light of Speculative Masonry was impalpable and intellectual; and hence, by the adoration of the sensible element of fire, the Gentiles forfeited the substance by cherishing the shadow. Their apprehensions being limited to material subjects of contemplation, they soon lost all vestiges of the true Light, and became incapable of comprehending mysteries which related exclusively to the immaterial world. And this may partly account for the introduction of polytheism; and for the very unimportant nature of the topics which pervaded their system of Spurious Freemasonry, on which Gentile philosophy was accustomed to exercise its ingenuity, or apply its reasoning powers.

It is remarkable that, after the advent of Christ, the Shekinah did not appear in a *thick cloud*, as under the Jewish dispensation; because the true Light was now come which should illuminate all mankind. Thus, at the baptism, transfiguration and ascension, the cloud is uniformly denominated "bright;" although, perhaps, containing some degree of opacity; and the Shekinah which inspired the Apostles assumed the form of small tongues of lambent flame, accompanied by an invisible wind which filled the house where they were assembled. And it is ever present in the believer's heart by the Holy Ghost. Still, however, the Light which we have the happiness to enjoy is not absolutely clear, nor can it be in our present imperfect position. The Lectures of Freemasonry contain many allusions and references to the holy and sublime appearances of the Deity in the form of Light; and to its eternal existence as the Wisdom, or intellect, or glory, which, surpassing our conceptions, forms the object of our Faith and Hope, and which, united with Charity, is coeval with the Great First Cause. But when the invisible world shall be fully disclosed, and the Grand Lodge above opened for eternal enjoyment, then shall we be able to appreciate that full communication of supreme Light and unbounded knowledge which

constitute the perfection of Charity, and form the true Freemasonry of heaven. "Now we see through a glass darkly; but then shall we see face to face. Now we know in part, but then shall we know even as we are known."²⁸ And then shall the SECRET of the Lord be fully revealed to them that fear him.²⁹

²⁸ 1 Cor. xiii 12.

²⁹ Pa. xxv. 14.

LECTURE II.

VIEW OF SPECULATIVE MASONRY AS A SYSTEM OF CHARITY.

Each other gift which God on man bestows,
Its proper bound and due restriction knows ;
To one fixed purpose dedicates its power,
And, finishing its act, exists no more.
Thus, in obedience to what heaven decrees,
Knowledge shall fail and prophecy shall cease ;
But lasting CHARITY'S more ample sway,
Nor bound by time, nor subject to decay,
In happy triumph shall for ever live,
And endless good diffuse, and endless praise receive.

Prior.

IN all public Institutions, some form of admission has ever been adopted, with an approach to sublimity, proportioned to the rank and importance which each society may sustain in public estimation. In most cases the ceremony is preceded by a ballot, to ascertain whether the proposed candidate may be acceptable to the community at large ; that harmony may not be interrupted, nor discord fomented by the introduction of improper persons. This being satisfactorily arranged, admission is accompanied with various degrees of solemnity, from the simple signature of a name, to the imposing rite of initiation into Masonry, or the solemn ceremony of appropriating a candidate for the ministry to God's service, by episcopal ordination.

Such have been the usage of society from the earliest times ; and I am persuaded that the pure Freemasonry of our antediluvian brethren was accompanied by a characteristic rite of initiation, which forcibly impressed upon the candidate's enquiring mind an historical legend or tradition, which it was of the utmost consequence

should be preserved; and was hence transmitted through those ages when letters or alphabetical characters were unknown, and oral communication could alone be adopted as a method of recording past events. The length to which human life was extended, rendered such a course equally simple and effective; nor do any doubts exist that this Freemasonry (so to call it) was deteriorated in the slightest degree, either in its facts or ceremonies, while it remained in the custody of the pure and holy race who erected their superstructure on the firm and solid basis of Charity, or the love of God and man. I am restricted by obligations, the most sacred, from attempting to describe this ceremonial, or to name the legend on which it was founded; yet every brother, who is in the habit of investigating the true nature and tendency of the science into which he has been initiated, will be at no loss to discover, in the brief account which Moses has given of these early times, sufficient data for the foundation of a theory on this subject, which will approximate very nearly to the truth.

That the legend was varied, and the points of morality extended by the Noachidæ, there cannot exist the slightest question; for to record the course of events, and to justify the ways of God to man, historical recollections would be augmented; and additional incitements to virtuous actions, springing from the love of God, would be embodied in the patriarchal Lecture: thus would the holy science hold onward its progressive course, till the grand union of Speculative and Operative Masonry at the building of king Solomon's Temple; the most remarkable epochs being the Creation, the Deluge, the Offering of Isaac, the deliverance from Egyptian Bondage, and the erection of the Temple;—and the most striking events which were deemed worthy of being incorporated into the science, were the appearance of the Cherubic forms at the gate of Eden, the translation of Enoch, the mechanical excellence of Jubal and Tubal Cain, the grand Festival given by Abraham at the weaning of his son Isaac, the Vision of Jacob, the mission of Moses at Horeb, the building of the Tabernacle, the slaughter of the Ephraimites, the Offering of David on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, and the Dedication of the Temple.

This pure and primitive system was founded on Brotherly Love or Charity. I am aware that there exists in the world, and I am afraid also amongst the brethren, a mistaken opinion respecting this great principle of Freemasonry. The error arises from a superficial consideration of the true meaning of the word Charity. Taken in its literal and more obvious sense, it is supposed to be embodied in our benevolent institutions. We have, however, a different name for the sensible and material virtue which operates so beneficially for the advantage of our widows, orphans, and brethren in distress. And that is *Relief*, which constitutes one division of the principal Point of Freemasonry. Thus, if a person give profusely that his name may appear to advantage on a subscription list;—if self-love incite him to acts of liberality that he may receive the homage of those amongst whom he lives—would it be correct to attribute to such a man the practice of true Masonic or Christian Charity? Far from it. His benevolence is laudable, because it is beneficial. But it is not Charity—it is Relief. To speak masonically, it may be Faith, it may be Hope, but it cannot be Charity. These are distinct things. An inspired writer has enumerated them, and informed us which is the greatest.¹

Again, the same quality may be exercised to establish a name, or to acquire a reputation. And I confess the applause of the world is one of its greatest comforts. That man's heart must be cold indeed which is insensible to it. The blessing of the poor—the glistening eye of the widow as she pours forth her gratitude for benefits received—the cheerful greeting of the orphan, are amongst the gratifications which it may be right to covet. But if our benevolence have only this end, we shall fall short of that beautiful—that masonic Charity which believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. And why? Because the principle of doing good, merely to enjoy the pleasure of being thanked for it, is selfish and unprofitable; because the praise of men is at best but an uncertain support—a broken reed. It will assuredly give way. And when this shall happen, all our imaginary honours, if they base their existence on this

¹ 1 Cor. xiii.

hope only, will be prostrated and scattered to the winds of heaven.

And if we fall—we fall like Lucifer,
Never to rise again.

But let bright-eyed Charity be practised in its pure disinterestedness;—let there be no alloy—no unworthy motives when you exercise liberality;—no secret wish for an equivalent, or covert desire to establish a reputation for benevolence; and you will never be disappointed of your reward—the unsullied pleasure of doing good. You will have chosen for your support the pillars of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, and they are based upon the eternal Rock of ages. Calumny, with envenomed tooth, may attack—reproach may vilify—envy may exercise its cankerous cravings to afflict and wound—still, in the midst of all these pelting storms, you are at peace; conscious rectitude is your sheet anchor; your foundation is Freemasonry, which cannot be shaken; and all attempts to impeach your integrity will be impotent and unsuccessful.

In order to form a clear idea of this supereminent principle, it will be necessary to define the three Theological Virtues, and compare their respective merits and excellencies. By this process we shall, perhaps, discover what Freemasonry, under its designation of Charity, really is. Faith and Hope are essentially necessary to our happiness both here and hereafter. Without the former, it will be impossible to perform our duty to God with satisfaction to our own consciences; and the latter is the sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. Thus Faith and Hope are essentials both of Masonry and religion; and indispensably necessary to a successful progress, not merely through our masonic career, but, what is of greater importance, through the vicissitudes of a life of trial, if we wish to finish our course with joy. But greater than this is Charity. Faith in God, and Hope in futurity, are not enough; they must be animated by Charity, or the universal love of God and man; else they will be ineffectual to draw aside the veil which conceals the Holy of Holies from profane inspection; they will fail to exalt us to that superb Temple above, where the Great I AM eternally dwells amidst pure Light and undivided Charity.

This is the Charity which animates the system of Free-

masonry ; and reveals the Theological Ladder, by virtue of which we hope to ascend from earth to heaven. This Ladder dates its origin from the following historical fact : Jacob was the beloved son of Rebecca, the wife of Isaac ; and she knowing that a blessing of a peculiar nature was vested in her husband, was resolved, at any risk, to obtain it for her favourite child, though it was the legitimate property of her first-born Esau. She succeeded, though by an unworthy stratagem, in her design ; but Jacob was no sooner in possession of his aged father's blessing, than he was obliged to flee from the wrath of his brother, who threatened his life for having supplanted him alike in his birthright and his father's blessing. By the advice of his mother he went down to Padanaram, a distant country in the land of Mesopotamia, to seek refuge in the hospitality of her brother Laban. Being weary and benighted at the close of his first day's travel, he laid himself down to rest, with the cold earth for his bed, a stone for his pillow, and the cloudy canopy of heaven for his covering. Here he was favoured with a divine communication. In a vision of the night he saw a Ladder resting on the earth, its summit extending to the heavens, and angels ascending to the throne of grace for divine commissions, and returning to disseminate them over the face of the earth for the use and benefit of mankind. It was from his throne in heaven, at the summit of this Ladder, that Jehovah was pleased to make a solemn league and covenant with Jacob, that, if he walked in his ways and kept his statutes, he would not only bring him back in peace and plenty to his father's house, but would exalt his posterity to great temporal honour and pre-eminence. This promise was remarkably fulfilled. Jacob's favourite son became lord of all Egypt ; and the children of Israel, in the days of Solomon, were the mightiest and the most powerful people under the sun. In our Lodges this Ladder contains three principal staves. It rests on the Holy Bible, and extends to the cloudy canopy. By the doctrines contained in that sacred volume, we are induced to believe in the dispensations of Providence ; which Faith enables us to ascend the first step of the Ladder. A firm and well grounded Hope of being sharers in the promises therein recorded being thus created, enables us to ascend

the second step. The third and sublime step is Charity ; and the Mason who possesses this virtue in its most extended sense, may justly be said to have arrived at the summit of the science ;—figuratively speaking, to an ethereal mansion veiled from mortal eye by the starry firmament ; which is emblematically depicted in the Masons' Lodge by Seven Stars ; without which number of regular Masons no Lodge can be perfect, neither can any candidate be legally initiated therein.

Let us, then, consider the distinctive properties of these three virtues. Faith is a firm and sincere assent to the fundamental truths of religion, viz., the being and attributes of God ; the true nature of the worship which is most acceptable to him ; the doctrine of universal redemption, and a future state of rewards and punishments. It includes also a free reception of the means which have been provided for avoiding the one and obtaining the other. This definition, which makes Faith the imperishable rock on which pure religion is founded, is perfectly consistent with revelation ; for St. Paul expressly says : " Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen ;" and it is, therefore, the first incentive to obedience ; the *first step* towards Hope and Charity. Nothing can cast clouds and darkness over the prospect of eternity, but a consciousness of guilt, and a consequent apprehension of punishment. But Faith becomes our surety, and presents itself to calm our desponding fears. The doctrine of human redemption dispels the threatening cloud, and admits a glimmering of divine Light, that the dread of God's offended majesty may not completely overwhelm his creatures with darkness and despair. Thus the *second step* becomes attainable by the admission of Hope ; which lends its assisting hand to cheer the faithful brother amidst all his troubles, sorrows, and adversities, with the prospect of everlasting peace in the mansions of glory.

Hope is an earnest desire, and a well assured expectation of escaping the dangers which threaten, and of obtaining the rewards which have been promised, by the means prescribed in the pages of divine revelation. The belief of future rewards and punishments, united with perfect ignorance of the means by which happiness may be attained and misery avoided, would be a state of

suspense the most distressing that could be conceived. Hence arise the consolations of Hope. A firm reliance on the divine promises will enable us to circumscribe our wishes and desires within the limits of that most gracious covenant which God has established with us. An all-sufficient atonement has been made for sin; by the efficacy of which, Hope points the way to an inheritance amongst the blessed saints in Light.

Charity is the *third step* of the Masonic Ladder; its foot based on revelation, and its summit concealed amidst the brilliant clouds of heaven. It consists of an ardent love of God, united with an unfeigned affection for all his creatures. Possessed of Charity, the heart expands—the bosom warms—and a sensation of ineffable and unmixed kindness engrosses the whole man. Nor is this sublime virtue capable of a more restricted sense. If we exclude the divine love, and understand it simply of affection for our species, it becomes earthly; and we should find it difficult to assign a satisfactory reason why it should take the precedence of Faith and Hope. But if we consider Charity in its most extended sense, for the unfeigned love of God and man, the beauty of the principle immediately displays itself. The Mason who possesses a lively faith in God will endeavour to imitate the divine perfections on which the Hope of salvation is founded: and will be jealous to fulfill that precept which tests the purity of his Charity—"he who loveth God shall love his brother also."

Here, then, we find the joint and separate excellency of these three Theological Virtues clearly exemplified. Faith is the foundation and pedestal of the system. It points to duty, and displays the means of obtaining its reward. Hope is a polished *Shaft* raised on the Pedestal of Faith in the existence of a God, and of his superintending care over his creatures. This bright assurance adds vigour to our energies by the consoling promise of happiness, if sought in the ways of virtue and holiness. Charity is the beautiful *Capital* which crowns and completes the system. It constitutes the sublimity of Faith and Hope: because we have authority for saying that "Charity *believeth* all things; *hopeth* all things." Faith imprints a strong sense of responsibility on the mind, and opens to our view the prospect of a glorious recom-

pense. Hope perseveres in a faithful discharge of its duty apprehending the reward to be attainable. But Charity surmounts all difficulties; turns duty to delight, and yields a tranquillity of mind which the world cannot bestow. This is the consideration which elevates Charity above all other graces and perfections.

Would you trace this sublime principle to its source? You must look beyond the bounds of time, you must penetrate the empyrean to the heaven of heavens; and there you will find it existing amongst the happy society of angels, before that black apostacy was introduced, which ended in the expulsion of the rebel spirits, and the restoration of this branch of Freemasonry, the bond of peace and of all virtues. And when the existence of this globe shall terminate; when the Great Architect of the Universe "shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God," masonic Charity will continue to illuminate those blessed abodes where the just exist to all eternity. This splendid branch of the Masonic science is the distinguishing characteristic of the Deity. All other virtues, whether cardinal or theological, are mortal—Charity alone is immortal. Like the central blazing star in the firmament of heaven, Charity shall shed its resplendent beams through ages of eternal glory.

St. Paul, in language purely masonic, speaking of this virtue, says: "Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." What were the reasons which induced the Apostle to make this assertion? It was because these gifts are transient, and adapted to an imperfect state, because they would be useless in a state of beatitude and Light. Even Faith and Hope, though essential to every one during his mortal pilgrimage, will have no place in the realms of bliss. There we shall see the things which are now unseen, and consequently we shall not want the evidence of Faith. The first step of the Masonic Ladder being triumphantly passed, will be for ever done away. There we shall possess the things we now long for, therefore we shall not need the support of Hope. Thus the second step will finally vanish. But when Faith and Hope shall have had their perfect consummation, Charity

will still remain. The third step of the Ladder penetrates the highest heavens, and can never be destroyed. And when the darkness of death is past, and we are admitted into the Grand Lodge above, the region of eternal Light, the bright beams of Charity will be fully infused into our souls; and we shall make our glorious company with the angels and archangels and all the host of heaven. One mind and one voice will animate this heavenly society; and that mind and that voice will celebrate the praises of masonic charity. All will unite in the most perfect harmony to adore the Most High. Mutually rejoicing in each other's happiness, as there will be no wants to relieve, no distress to commiserate, all in that blessed Lodge will be filled with the pure essence of spiritual Freemasonry.

This, then, is the system of Charity which is taught in a Freemasons' Lodge. Is it necessary to enquire whether you feel proud of a science from which such purity flows—from which such blessings are conveyed? Do you feel happy in the prospect of sharing with the Holy Angels in the bliss which celestial charity confers on the just? Deprived of Charity, pleasure with all its allurements—learning with all its privileges—wealth with all its splendour of enjoyment—authority with all its painted pomp—are but a solemn mockery. Though we may possess the gift of prophecy; though we may understand all mysteries and all knowledge; though by Faith we could remove mountains; though we bestow all our goods to feed the poor, and give our bodies to be burned; yet if our hearts be not impressed with this supernal charity, all these possessions, brilliant and imposing though they may appear, will not help us one step on our road to heaven.

If, in the mansions of bliss, there is a graduated scale of rewards, adapted to the different degrees of approval, vouchsafed to individuals at the day of judgment—which is extremely probable, as there are many heavens mentioned in scripture—each will be illuminated with a portion of that Light which streams from the throne of God, in the highest heaven; as the Most Holy place in the Temple was enlightened by the sacred Shekinah. And though the degree of Light and illumination will be, doubtless, proportioned to the class on which it is bestowed, yet whether they be made rulers over ten cities, or

over five or over two,² whether theirs be the glory of the sun, the moon, or the stars, the very lowest grade of happiness³ will be favoured with the lucid presence of God, as well as that which may approach the nearest to his celestial throne, though not perhaps to the same extent; and the brotherhood, even of that comparative state of happiness, will receive a vast accession of knowledge and spirituality, and will enjoy, as in a supreme Grand Lodge, a portion of that ineffable Light and Charity, which has constituted, while on earth, the glorious object of their Faith and Hope. The true Freemason, if he have performed his work faithfully, and practised with freedom, fervency, and zeal, the incumbent duties of his profession, shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and if he have turned many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever.⁴

Let us, then, cultivate, not only in tyled Lodges, but in our general commerce with the world, this most excellent quality. Let us, from a genuine principle of refined charity, practise mutual forbearance; and reciprocate a constant interchange of kindness and affection. If Freemasonry be a beneficial institution, let its fruits appear, in the virtuous discharge of the social duties of life; for the Third Degree points to a day of responsibility, when the transient concerns of time shall have passed away—when the world and all its allurements shall have vanished like a morning dream—and purity of heart, induced by the presence of universal Charity, will alone enable us to endure the presence of the glorious Shekinah of God. As Masons, let us use the present world, without abusing our fraternal privileges; for if all our time be expended in the acquirement of worldly knowledge, or in the gaiety of worldly pleasure, and we neglect to enlighten our minds with this celestial virtue, we shall be fatally convinced at that awful period when the everblessed Lodge above shall be opened never to be closed; when the last arrow of the mighty conqueror Death shall have been expended, and his bow broken by the iron hand of time, that St. Paul uttered the words of eternal truth when he said: “though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.”

² Luke xix. 17.

³ 1 Cor. xv. 41.

⁴ Dan. xii. 3.

LECTURE III.

THE PERFECTION TO WHICH OPERATIVE OR SCIENTIFIC MASONRY WAS CARRIED IN THE EARLIEST TIMES.

Those tents thou saw'st so pleasant, were the tents
Of wickedness, wherein shall dwell his race
Who slew his brother ; studious they appear
Of arts that polish life, inventors rare,
Unmindful of their Maker, though his Spirit
Taught them, but they his gifts acknowledg'd none.

Milton.

THE study of Freemasonry in its several branches, and under every designation by which it has been recognized in all ages from the creation, cannot fail to enhance the moral dignity of man, from the influence which it has ever exercised over human institutions, whether civil or religious. The political relations, which the nomadic tribes of antiquity sustained towards each other, were cemented by the awful sanction of its local name, as the sacred vehicle of religious mystery ; and the rites of initiation conveyed privileges which constituted a bond of union amongst individuals of every clime and every language ; while under another form, as a medium for the development of scientific knowledge, its influence was no less felt, by its command over the arts which dignified and adorned nations, and contributed to the necessities and elegances of social and domestic life.

The cloud cap towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples,

the works of the sculptor, the statuary, the painter, and the engraver, which still live, not only in the desolate and uninhabited places of the earth, forsaken by the herds which once crowded their streets and swarmed in

their pastoral districts—but in the more accessible form of collections, which furnish the museums and depositories of every nation : these contribute to establish the permanency and triumph of Freemasonry ; and here the fame of our ancient brethren will live for ever.

It is, however, a favourite theory of modern times, that the earliest inhabitants of the world were imperfectly acquainted with the arts and sciences ; and some eminent philosophers have not hesitated to assert, that they were a race of ignorant savages, destitute alike of moral and scientific improvement. Lord Woodhouselee, in his *Universal History*, says, that “so entire a change must have been operated by the deluge on the face of nature, as totally to extinguish all traces of antediluvian knowledge, and to renew the world to a state of infancy ; and we are well assured that the manners, customs, arts, sciences, and political arrangements of the antediluvian ages could have little or no influence on those which succeeded them.”

To redeem the character of our ancient brethren from such a reflection is the object of the present Lecture ; in which I shall attempt to prove that literature and science, amongst those who practised the Spurious Freemasonry, had attained some state of perfection before the existence of any accredited records which have reached our times ; not only in the antediluvian, but also in the earlier periods of the postdiluvian world ; and I proceed to adduce a series of evidence which, it is presumed, will establish this remarkable fact.

It is clear that certain sciences were practised before the flood, by the apostate race of Cain. The sacred writings afford a satisfactory illustration of their ingenuity and diligence in the arts of civil life ; and the ancient histories of every nation furnish sufficient evidence to confirm the theory ; as witness the record of Sanchoniatho, and the Puranas of the East. On the murder of Abel, Cain, with his family, being expelled from Adam's altars, built a city and called it Dedicate or Consecrate, after the name of his eldest son ; and his descendants, following this example, improved themselves, not only in geometry and architecture, as branches of Operative Masonry, but made discoveries of other curious arts. Thus Jabal, the eldest son of Lamech, first invented the use of tents,

or moveable dwellings, adapted to the use of herdsmen ; and taught the art of managing cattle, which heretofore had dispersed themselves wild throughout the open country. Jubal, his third son, was the inventor of music and musical instruments ; and Tubal Cain, his youngest son, found out the art of forging and working metals.

The descendants of Seth, the third son of Adam, were very differently employed. They practised what we denominate Speculative Masonry ; and lived, according to an Eastern tradition, in the sacred mountain, with great sanctity and purity of manners. They employed themselves principally in the worship and praise of God ; and they had sufficient leisure for this delightful exercise, for they lived on the spontaneous fruits of the earth, and neither sowed, reaped, nor gathered harvest. They were ignorant of the baleful passions of envy, hatred, malice, or deceit. They daily ascended to the summit of the mountain to worship God, and to visit the body of Adam, as the means of procuring the divine blessing. They seem to have employed their leisure hours in cultivating their minds, and in speculations on the wonderful works of creation. They were chiefly skilful in Astronomy ; for they attained no perfection in mechanical arts ; as far, at least, as we are able to judge from the Mosaic records ; where little is said about them, except in commendation of their peaceful and domestic virtues of social life. They soon discovered that the study of the laws and motions of the heavenly bodies expanded the mind, and led it from the contemplation of the most magnificent objects of nature up to the Almighty Architect. The sun, the moon, and the planets were regarded by them as august objects displaying the unbounded power and goodness of God, in constructing this vast machine for the service of man. This science formed a part of their system of Freemasonry ; and some idea of the avidity with which they cultivated it may be formed, from a belief indulged by the Jewish Rabbins that Adam received the rudiments of Astronomy by divine inspiration ; and, also, from the fact that his immediate posterity, according to the testimony of Josephus, attained such an accurate knowledge of the periodical motions of the heavenly bodies as to be acquainted with the Grand period of 600 years, when

the sun and moon resume the same comparative situations which they occupied at its commencement.

Shuckford says: "Noah must be well apprized of the usefulness of this study, having lived 600 years before the flood; and he was, without doubt, well acquainted with all the arts of life that had been invented in the first world, and this of observing the stars had been one of them; so that he could not only apprise his children of the necessity of, but also put them into some method of, prosecuting these studies." After the flood, therefore, the line of Ham were by no means ignorant of astronomy; on the contrary, the Phenicians and Egyptians attained a very early knowledge of the planetary revolutions, and even arranged the clusters of stars into the constellations by which they are now distinguished. Thus their principal deity, Cronus or Ham, who invented, as it is supposed, the Spurious Freemasonry, was consecrated into the planet Saturn.¹ Mercury was the presumed residence of Thoth.² Isis was called the dog star. Osiris or Nimrod appeared in the constellation of Orion; and Typhon, in Ursa Major.³ And most of these asterisms were significant emblems of the process of initiation.

It was not curiosity alone that prompted men to apply themselves to astronomical speculations. It proceeded, in some measure, from necessity. For, if the seasons which are distinguished by the movements of the heavenly bodies, are not observed, it would be impossible to succeed in the practice of agriculture. If the duration of the month and year were not accurately determined, a prescribed order could not be established in civil affairs; nor could the days allotted to the exercise of religion be fixed. Thus, as neither agriculture, polity, nor religion could dispense with the want of astronomy, it is evident that mankind were obliged to apply themselves to the sciences from the beginning of the world.

The Indians were a primitive people, and they paid great attention to astronomy, the rudiments of which were probably communicated to them by the Patriarch Noah. A passage in the *Chronicon Paschale* makes them famous for this science, even before the general disper-

¹ Sanch. in Euseb. *præp. evan.* l. i. c. 10.

² Eratos. *Catas.* c. 23.

³ De Isid. and Osir.

sion of mankind. The author says, "at the time when the Tower of Babel was built, a person who was an Indian, of the race of Arphaxad, made his appearance. His name was Andoubarios, and he was famous for wisdom, and a knowledge of astronomy."

Hence the Spurious Freemasonry of both these nations bore an universal reference to this divine science. When the early Egyptians surveyed the heavens with the eye of philosophy, they were struck with the order and regularity of the wonderful orbs of light which illuminated the expanse; and admiring the beautiful system thus portrayed in the sky, ascribed the miracle to the two chief luminaries, the Sun and the Moon, which they considered to be eternal, and hence the Deity, because nothing but the Deity could have existed from everlasting. This belief induced them to paint in permanent colours, or carve in relief, upon the walls and ceilings of their most ancient temples and places of initiation, planetary systems, zodiacs, and celestial planispheres; which have been described by Denon, Belzoni, and others, as still remaining at Tintyra, Esneh, the ancient Letopolis, the Temple of Isis at Philoe, Apollinopolis magna or Edfu, &c.

To describe the astronomical systems which prevailed in every nation, would be a task far exceeding my means of information; but a brief exposition of the astronomy of Pythagoras, who carried the spurious Freemasonry to its greatest perfection, may be acceptable, as it displays some of the refinements of science peculiar to those early times, and was, indeed, a combination of the chief excellencies of each system; for he had travelled through the world to study the wisdom and learning of every people, and had been initiated, as we shall more particularly see in a subsequent Lecture, into the mysteries of all nations. Iamblichus informs us,⁴ that he communicated in his Lodges a clear knowledge of all the motions of the stars and spheres, which he modelled on the just proportions of harmony and numbers.⁵ He instructed them that the centre of all things is Fire and Light; and this Fire he placed in heaven and called it *Moonquarao*,

⁴ Vit. Pyth. c. 6.

⁵ Censor. de die natal. c. 13. Pliny. l. 2, c. 21.

because he said, the most excellent body ought to have the most excellent place, viz., the centre.⁶ The Egyptian hierophants, from whom he learned much of his astronomy and geometry, taught their disciples that there were eight spheres, the highest of which was the fixed stars, or the region of incorruptible ether, from which all souls emanated, and where spiritual essences dwell.⁷ But Pythagoras ventured to differ from his instructors, and made the spheres ten in number, because ten being the most perfect number, or the Tetractys, aptly represented Heaven. By the central fire, Simplicius appears to think he meant the Sun, about which the earth and planets had their periodical revolutions. This interpretation is doubted by others, because his successors made the sun move round the earth. Empedocles, one of his most learned followers, informs us, that "the sun is a great heap of fire, bigger than the moon. The world is circumscribed by the circulation of the sun, and that is the boundary of it." And if the harmonical theory of Pythagoras, with which we have been favoured by Censorinus, be correct, the earth must have been placed by our philosophers in the centre. This writer says: "Pythagoras asserted that the whole world is made according to musical proportion, and that the seven planets, betwixt heaven and earth, have an harmonious motion, and intervals correspondent to musical *diastemes*, and render various sounds, according to their several heights, so consonant, that they make the most sweet melody, but to us inaudible, by reason of the greatness of the noise, which the narrow passages of our ear is not capable to receive." He then goes on to explain that the moon is distant from the earth *one tone*; from the moon to Mercury, a *semitone*; the same from Mercury to Venus; from thence to the sun, a *tone and a half*; from the sun to Mars, *one tone*; and the three remote spaces, viz., to Jupiter, Saturn, and summum cœlum, each a *semitone*. Thus from the earth to the sun, being three tones and a half, he denominated *diapente*, or a musical fifth; from the moon to the sun, and from thence to the supreme heaven, each two tones and a half, which he termed *diatessaron*, or a fourth; and the whole distance from the earth to the supreme heaven being six

⁶ Plin. Simplic.

⁷ Picard. Egypt. Myth. p. 211.

tones, he called the *diapason* concord, because so many tones make an octave or *hypate*.

Much more might be added to prove that the Spurious Freemasonry of ancient times contained a refined knowledge of this noble science, but it is hoped that I have said enough to substantiate the fact.

Astronomy, however, was not the only science which marked the ingenuity and research of our ancient brethren. They excelled in Geometry, Architecture, and the fine arts; and the memorials of a refined taste still exist in the ruins which enrich the countries of the East. According to Josephus,* Geometry was known to the antediluvians. "Providence," says he, "found it necessary, for the promotion of virtue, and for cultivating the study and improvement of astronomy and geometry, to give a long date to the life of man; for, agreeably to the computation of the great year, no less a space of time than 600 years was required for making accurate experiments in those sciences." As geometry is a science on which many others depend, this conjecture of the Jewish historian is undoubtedly correct. Cain could scarcely practice architecture with any degree of success without the aid of geometry; nor could he apply himself to apportion and divide the land of Nod amongst his children, had he not possessed some knowledge of this fundamental science.

After the flood, we have positive evidence of the use to which geometry was applied. Indeed, Diodorus, Proclus, and others, attribute the *invention* of it to the Egyptians, under the direction of Mizraim and Thoth. It is certain that they were well versed in the science, which they applied to the construction of edifices, which have, in all ages, gratified and astonished the world. They found it particularly serviceable in ascertaining the situation of landmarks that formed the boundaries of their respective estates, which were usually obliterated and destroyed by the annual inundations of the river Nile; for on this science also the agriculturist placed some reliance for the success of his labours. Herodotus records the practice of geometry in the reign of Sesotris. "This prince," says the historian, "made a regular

* Ant. Jud. l. i. c. 4.

distribution of the lands of Egypt. He assigned to every Egyptian a square piece of ground; and his revenues were drawn from the rent which every individual paid him. Whoever was a sufferer by the inundation of the Nile, was permitted to make the king acquainted with his loss. Certain officers were appointed to enquire into the particulars of the injury, that no man might pay beyond his ability."

The principles of geometry were beautifully displayed very soon after the general deluge, in the construction of the Tower of Babel, which is represented as the frustum of a cone, with seven gradations. It was composed of bricks, dried in the sun, each being nineteen and a half feet in length, fifteen feet broad, and seven and a half feet in thickness. The foundation is said to have been half a mile in diameter; the building rising in stages, with an ascending passage on the outside to the top, which, when the work was stopped, was six hundred feet from the ground.

Operative Masonry had thus established its claims to notice at this early period. And its progress was gradual and sure, for a spirit of emulation existed amongst the fraternity, which led the way to great undertakings. The pyramids were constructed with such geometrical exactness, that they served to measure time. A writer in the *Classical Journal* says, that "*whoever built the great pyramid knew how to take a meridian, which is more than the moderns knew 250 years ago.*" According to the report of some authors, the northern side of this pyramid is illuminated by the rays of the sun at mid-day from the vernal to the autumnal equinox; but cast a shadow from the autumnal equinox to the vernal. Thus at mid-day at each equinox, the sun will be seen precisely at the apex of the pyramid, by those who place themselves at the centre of the north base."

In the earliest times, Operative Masonry appears to have gone hand in hand with the Spurious branch; and hence, the Cabiri, who are the reputed inventors of the latter, were sometimes called Telchines, because they excelled in the knowledge of architecture and other useful arts, and were particularly skilful in metallurgy; whence they were the reputed children of Tubal Cain or Vulcan; and the latter appears to have been a generic

term for every workman in metals who attained a superior degree of excellence. Æschylus introduces Prometheus, who was certainly a Cabirean priest, or in masonic phraseology, the Master of a Lodge of Spurious Freemasons, describing to the Chorus the arts for which mankind were indebted to his prolific genius. "I found them," says he, "dwelling in dismal caverns, which the sun's rays were unable to pierce, mansions more fit for the dead than for the living, ignorant of the seasons, and unskilful in the cultivation of the earth. I instructed them to build houses with timber and stone; I taught them the course of the stars, the recurrence of the seasons, and the science of agriculture; I taught them numbers, and that surpassing science—the knowledge of symbols and hieroglyphical characters, to serve for speech; I instructed them how to tame the ox and steed, and bow their stubborn necks to the yoke; I gave them ships to bear their commerce to the distant shores of the earth, imparted the secret virtues of herbs and plants, and taught them divination, signs and symbols, omens and augury; and, chief of all, explained the art of digging gold and silver, brass and iron, from the prolific earth—and of fabricating instruments for ornament and use."

To the Cabirean Lodges mankind were indebted for much of the useful knowledge they possessed. From their connection with the Spurious Freemasonry, the Cabiri were accounted magicians, who could equally sway the counsels, or wield the thunder of the gods; and hence these remarkable men were subsequently deified, (because tradition had magnified the exploits which they had performed, and the power which they had really exercised,) and the initiated into their mysteries were deemed secure from all temporal dangers and adversities. From them proceeded all the wonders of the Cyclopean Masonry; and the most remarkable structures that adorned the ancient world may be ascribed to their predominant genius. There is, indeed, scarcely a country in existence, how insignificant soever it may appear in the history of the times when it flourished, but retains traces of the skill and science of our ancient brethren.

A striking evidence of the perfection to which the Egyptians carried their knowledge of Operative Masonry, must not be omitted: I refer to the immense temples,

tombs, and catacombs, which display an intimate acquaintance with this science, and also with the arts of printing and engraving. This lavish display of taste and decoration proceeded, in some measure, from the religious awe which temples and receptacles for the dead always inspired in the ancient world; an awe proceeding from the Spurious Freemasonry. The scenes of horror which were displayed during the initiations, were peculiarly calculated to impress the mind with veneration and terror.

The divine vengeance on sacrilege, or the profanation of sacred edifices, was inculcated by scenic exhibitions, pourtraying the infliction of horrible torments on the unhappy perpetrators of this crime. Hence we are informed that the idolaters had such a high veneration for their temples that they frequently approached them on bended knees; and in times of public calamity, the women prostrated themselves in the porticos, sweeping the pavement with the hair of their heads.⁹ And Quintilian¹⁰ says, *sacratos morte lapides etiam ossa et cineres, et ossa religiose quiescentia fracta sparsisset urna*. It would require volumes to describe all the palaces, tombs, obelisks, statues, paintings, &c., the remains of which still exist, and which owe their origin to the genius and industry of ancient Operative Masons.

The splendour, taste, and science displayed in the construction of the temple at Jerusalem, with the curious and cunning workmanship of the cherubim and other embellishments which decorated that superb building, the magnificent cities of Thebes, Balbec, and Palmyra, and many other cities in the East, stupendous monuments of which still exist to strike the artists of the present day with wonder and delight, are so many evidences of the triumph of Operative Masonry in the ancient world, and serve to show that how proud soever the philosophy of the present times may be of its lofty elevation, the specimens executed in the most enlightened periods of antiquity, by the artists of Egypt, Greece, and Rome, mutilated though they be, are still considered as studies of the most sublime nature; and a gallery has been collected in the British Museum, at an incredible expense, for that express purpose. Thus it becomes

⁹ Arrian. apud Montf. Ant. vol. 2. p. 37.

¹⁰ Declaim. 10.

questionable, whether the best efforts of Chantry or Canova can exceed the Jupiter of Phidias, or the Venus of Praxiteles.

From the facts displayed in this Lecture, we may form some idea of the early origin of the liberal sciences, and the perfection to which they were carried in the most remote period of time, amongst those who had strayed widely from the true Light, and practised the substituted anomaly. Before I conclude, however, it may be useful to make a few general references and remarks, not included in the foregoing arrangement. So early as the time of Abraham, Egypt was a great nation. Its Spurious Freemasonry was in full operation, and it possessed a settled government, with civil and religious institutions. Two generations lower, viz., in the time of Jacob, we find distant people flocking hither for initiation and instruction—conveniences for general intercourse having been established by this politic people, in the form of caravans, regularly passing and repassing to and from Palestine and other countries, for the purchase of spices and various articles of merchandise¹¹—while the order, state, and ceremony, observed in the court of Pharaoh when Joseph was a captive, indicate that considerable progress had been made in the refinements which accompany civilization. Indeed, Macrobius says that no people in the world were equal to the Egyptians in learning and politeness, and while he makes Egypt, in one place, “the mother of all the arts,” he says in another, “the Egyptians *omnium philosophiæ disciplinarum parentes*.”

The book of Job is the oldest written document in the world, and was either the production of that patriarch, or compiled from materials left by him. Now, according to Hales, Job was cotemporary with Nahor, the grandfather of Abraham; while others place him much lower, and make him the same with Jobab, king of Edom, and the son of Zera, of Bozra, the grandson of Esau. In either case he lived before the time of Moses. In this book we find the most indisputable evidences of the high degree of refinement which mankind had then attained. Philosophy was taught in their Lodges, and embodied in the theory and practice of the liberal sciences, grammar,

¹¹ Gen. xxxvii. 25.

rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry with architecture, civil, military, and naval, music and astronomy. The people were busied in the arts of agriculture, mineralogy, and navigation; and Dr. Hyde asserts that the Chaldee Jews mention the loadstone in their private writings; and that the Arabians understood its uses. The vine and the olive were cultivated for the solace and gratification of the highest grades of society; music in theory and practice was taught; ear-rings and jewels of gold were manufactured and enriched with precious stones; the onyx, the chaste sapphire, the transparent crystal, the topaz, ruby, coral, and pearl are all mentioned as being in requisition for female adornment; and even polished mirrors were constructed for the convenience of decorating their persons with the accessories of dress. The art of glass-blowing was not unknown; and they were acquainted with the smelting and refining of metals. These public and domestic conveniences belonged only to a state far advanced towards moral and intellectual enlightenment.

At the deliverance from Egypt, the Israelites, with Aaron at their head, exhibited a wonderful facility in the art of working metals; for, during the short period that Moses was in the mount, they constructed a mould in which they cast a golden calf, and finished their work with the graver, by decorating it with a variety of ornaments, both polished and annealed. There is no positive evidence to prove this assertion, except the expressive words of Moses, "he fashioned it with a graving tool;"¹² but the presumption is strongly in favour of the fact, because the cherubim and other enrichments of the tabernacle were finished in both these styles; and it is further rendered probable by the very high degree of chemical knowledge which the legislator displayed in destroying the idol; for he reduced it to powder by the agency of fire. These arts were undoubtedly learned in Egypt.

In an enumeration of the ancient learning of the Egyptian hierophants—for it will be remembered that

¹² Ex. xxxii. 4. Jerome translates the passage, *formavit opere fusorio, et fecit ex eis vitulum conflatilem*—he fashioned it by the art of the founder, and made of them a cast calf. Scapula says *vqapadi*, and *vqapis*—is an engraver's tool.

all knowledge was imbedded in the Spurious Freemasonry, and the people were miserably ignorant and brutish—Philo names arithmetic, geometry, music, and hieroglyphical philosophy; but others, more correctly, divide it into four parts: mathematical, natural, divine, and moral. The great value which they placed on geography, appears from the description which Clemens Alexandrinus gives of the sacred scribe; who was required to be well skilled in hieroglyphics, cosmography, geography, the motions of the planets, the chorography of Egypt, and a description of the Nile. Whitehurst goes so far as to assert that the first race of men after the flood, much anterior to the Phenician and Egyptian nations, were familiarly acquainted with the laws of gravitation, fluidity, and centrifugal force. The science exhibited by the Sidonians is celebrated both in sacred and profane history. Homer terms them *πολυταίδαλοι*, skilled in many arts.

Is it, then, asked, why we find the nations of the east, and Egypt in particular, at the present time, in such a degraded state of mental ignorance and imbecility? I answer,—the natural fertility of that country, by the periodical inundations of its sacred river, yielding abundance without labour, produced indolence; and the people, being at length enervated by sloth and luxury, the taste for cultivating the arts gradually declined, till at length it ended in their total extinction: and we look in vain for a work of genius in times comparatively modern, which will display the science so abundantly lavished on the temples, statues, and catacombs of antiquity. And hence appears the necessity of constant labour and incessant industry in the perfection of human reason and science.

To these causes of a decay of refinement amongst a civilized people, may be added their easy conquest by Barbarians, and the consequent destruction of works of art, and valuable monuments containing the accumulated wisdom of ages. Such were the desolation of Egypt under Cambyzes; the destruction of the Alexandrian library by the Saracens; the conquest of Italy and the sack of Rome, first by the Goths, and afterwards by the Huns and Vandals; each tending to extinguish knowledge, and introduce a period of ignorance and mental imbecility. Even the native Americans, savage though

they have been for a succession of ages, were, in times too remote for either record or tradition, a wise, civilized, and scientific people. An evidence of this exists in the fact that more than half a century ago two ancient wells were discovered in North America, *walled round with brick*. It is clear, therefore, from this incident, that, as bricks were unknown to the first inhabitants of that country, of whom we possess any authentic knowledge, they must have been used by a people antecedent to them, amongst whom arts and civilization had been cultivated with considerable success. And this primitive people, whoever they might be, were acquainted with the principles of geometry; for the wells were walled in a perfect circle.

There would, however, be a wide difference amongst various nations in the grades of scientific improvement; and I agree with the author of the *Origines Biblicæ*, that in maritime countries, where the further progress and dispersion of mankind have been stopped by the ocean—in islands—in cities where men have been congregated together for the purposes of commerce—civilization has generally continued to advance with considerable rapidity; whilst in countries where nomadic habits have been induced, the people have descended in the scale of civilization in an equal ratio to the quality of the country, and its means of affording subsistence, operating conjointly with its extent, and the consequent absence of the necessity for its inhabitants to adopt any means of support beyond those which have spontaneously presented themselves, and which have thence become congenial to them. Generally speaking, however, the barometer of civilization would fluctuate as it was operated upon by prosperity or adversity; for while exertion would be stimulated by necessity, plenty would lessen the motives for exertion; and science would accordingly be debased, and in many instances lost, as it is at present in most of the Eastern nations, on whose superiority I have, in this Lecture, had the pleasure to enlarge.

Thus it appears, that the world has had its bright as well as its dark ages; that the human intellect, in times of national peace and prosperity, has displayed its capability of improvement to an almost unlimited extent; and it is a matter of gratifying reflection, that our own times are marked by striking advances in the sciences

and arts, although they are yet far from perfection. Novelties are announced almost daily. What the future may produce we are unable to conjecture; but while we have before our eyes the beneficial purposes to which gas and steam have been applied, we must learn to be cautious how we condemn any proposition—strange and startling though it may appear;—for the ingenious efforts of scientific men may perfect designs which may exceed our most sanguine anticipations. This rapid diffusion of knowledge is morally as well as scientifically advantageous to society. He who is ardently attached to the stirring pursuits of science can never be an idle, and scarcely a vicious man. His mental energies are absorbed in the contemplation of a rich series of causes and effects, which cannot fail to produce a feeling of genuine and unremitted benevolence. Carnal indulgences will find it difficult to counterbalance, in such a mind, the attractions of science with its marvellous secrets, its host of new ideas, and the complication of vast designs which it is capable of bringing to perfection.

LECTURE IV.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN, PROGRESS, AND DESIGN OF THE SPURIOUS FREEMASONRY.

Underneath the soil, a hundred sacred paths,
Scoop'd through the living rock in winding mazes,
Lead to as many caverns dark and deep,
Mid which the hoary sages act their rites
Mysterious—rites of such strange potency,
As done in open day would dim the sun
Though throned in noontide brightness.

Mason.

In every modification of true religion, mysterious doctrines have been proposed by the Divine Author for the exercise of faith, and as a condition of existence. At the Fall, it was propounded as a motive for consolation, under the pressure of that misery and humiliation with which disobedience to the Divine command had plunged the first created pair, that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. This covenant was included in the Freemasonry of Adam, and illustrated by its symbol, a serpent, and a series of expressive signs and tokens which are still preserved amongst us. The type of this consoling promise, viz., animal sacrifices, was the primary mystery or sacrament which demanded implicit belief; and it was the moving principle which prompted the antediluvian patriarchs to worship God in purity, under the lively hope of profiting by the merits of the promised seed, who should thus atone for Adam's sin, and open to them the gates of heaven.

After the Flood and the renewed apostacy of the idolatrous race of Ham, another mystery or sacrament was enjoined on the patriarchs which was equally incomprehensible, and demanded the tacit acquiescence of the pious worshipper: this was circumcision. In the Mosaic

dispensation, the mystery of atonement by blood was more fully developed; and the type was made perfect by the institution of daily and annual sacrifices—the sin and trespass offerings—and more particularly by the scape goat; the offering of Abraham on Mount Moriah having intervened, that the promise and its type might be kept alive in the memory and comprehension of those who adhered to the true worship, and with it to the practice of pure Freemasonry.

Now, it would be known to the Cuthite occupiers of the plain of Shinar, that the true religion was imperfect without the presence of symbol and mystery. In the formation of a new system, therefore, the idea was carried out to an extent never contemplated in the pure times of simple and natural devotion. Instead of adopting the mystery (*Μυστήριον*, *Sacramentum*, an inward grace illustrated by symbols,) as a matter for the exercise of faith, which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, they embraced the more literal meaning of the word, (*res abscondita*,) and instituted secret rites and ceremonies (*απορρητα*) to conceal certain facts and doctrines from the people, and with a view of perpetuating, amidst darkness and seclusion, the knowledge of important circumstances, which they considered might be usefully transmitted to posterity. Still there was a remarkable rite in the orgies of Mithras, from which it would seem that they retained, amidst all their errors, some indistinct idea of the original purport of the mystery. And this was a kind of sacrament which the hierophant administered to the candidate at his initiation. We have the information from Tertullian,¹ who was well versed in all the mysteries of Paganism; but he erroneously ascribes the origin of the ceremony to Christianity. "A Diabolo scilicet, cujus sunt partes intervertendi veritatem. Qui ipsas quoque res sacramentorum divinatorum idolorum mysteriis æmulatur. Tingit et ipse quosdam, utique credentes, et fideles suos: expositionem delictorum de lavacro promittit et si adhuc memini, Mithra signat illic in frontibus milites suos, celebrat et panis oblationem, et imaginem resurrectionis inducit, et sub gladio redimit coronam."

¹ De præscript. c. 40.

The first retrograde step in the departure from truth was taken on the plain of Shinar, by the Cuthite descendants of Ham; although Epiphanius seems to think that the individual guilt of it lies with Serug, the son of Rue in the posterity of Shem, who possessed some authority amongst them.² First, the Invisible Deity was worshipped; but soon a perverted ingenuity substituted an emblem, and it was not long before credulity and superstition esteemed the symbol to be divine, and had honours offered at its altar. The primitive object of adoration used to represent the deity was a rough stone, whether a cube or a pyramid. Maximus Tyrius says, that the Arabians worshipped a square stone, and the Paphians a white pyramid.³ Herodian reports that the Phenicians paid their devotions to a conical pillar. Sometimes these emblems were applied indiscriminately to the same deity. Thus Pausanias affirms, that Jupiter *Makellos* at Argos and Sicyon was represented in one place by a pyramid, and in the other by a rough stone. And the upright stones consecrated by our Druidical forefathers are still extant in many parts of Britain; but their shapes are so various that they appear to have been determined by accident.

All the migratory tribes, however, who peopled distant countries, did not at once depart from the simplicity of the patriarchal worship. The Greeks were first led astray by the poets Orpheus, Homer, and Hesiod, who applied names and attributed actions to certain individuals whom they elevated to the rank of deities; for, before their time, the mythological worship of this people was directed to an invisible God. The Noachides, by the influence of primitive Freemasonry, succeeded for a time in stemming the torrent of idolatrous innovation, and were hence subsequently distinguished by the name of sages, "wise men, philosophers, masters in Israel, &c., and were ever venerated as sacred persons. They consisted of men of the brightest parts and genius, who exerted their utmost abilities in discovering and investigating the various mysteries of nature, from whence to draw improvements and inventions of the most useful consequences; men whose talents were not only employ-

² Hieron. l. i. c. 6.

³ Max. Tyr. Dissert. 38.

ed in speculation, or in private acts of beneficence, but who were also public blessings to the age and country in which they lived, possessed with moderate desires, who knew how to conquer their passions, practisers and teachers of the purest morality, and ever exerting themselves to promote the harmony and felicity of society. They were, therefore, consulted from all parts, and venerated with that sincere homage which is never paid but to real merit; and the greatest and wisest potentates on earth esteemed it an addition to their imperial dignities to be enrolled among such bright ornaments of human nature."⁴

Hence the religion of Freemasonry had not wholly degenerated in the time of Abraham. Melchizedek, king of Salem, is mentioned as a righteous man, as are also Abimelech the Philistine, and his people, Potipherah, the father-in-law of Joseph, Job, Balaam, and Jethro. Speaking of the latter, Calvin said that he was, doubtless, a worshipper of the true God; but adds, "*Mihi videtur vitiatum fuisse aliqua ex parte illius sacerdotium.*" All these men were hierophants of the mysteries, and, therefore, Procopius says: "*Nec tamen interim abstinebant ab idolatria.*" Bishop Horsley affirms, that, "in Egypt, idolatry was in its infancy, if it had at all gotten ground, in the days of Joseph, for, when he was brought to Pharaoh to interpret his dream, the holy Patriarch and the Egyptian king speak of God in much the same language, and with the same acknowledgment of his overruling providence."⁵ This assertion must be received with the above allowance. The base alloy was already visible in their superstitious rites and ceremonies; for the mysteries were certainly practised in Egypt long before this period. Indeed, idolatry must have made considerable progress in all the nations of the East before the Exodus, or the directions to avoid it in the Mosaic law would not have been so abundant, nor the denunciations against it so appalling. And Job alludes to the superstitions of Egypt when he declares: "if I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness, and my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand (to an idol) I should have denied the God that is above."⁶

⁴ Calcott, p. 15.

⁵ Horsley, Vol. IV. p. 46.

⁶ Job xxxi. 26.

The Sun, by its name of Luc or Lux,⁷ appears to have been the first object of idolatrous worship; but *fire* was its acknowledged emblem; and hence that element soon came in for its share of the devotion in Persia and Peru; while, in the Delta, the symbol was a scarabæus or beetle, which hence was ranked amongst the Egyptian deities. In Gaul and Britain, it was an unhewn stone placed erect. The person represented was soon obliged in all these cases to succumb to the substitute, and thus objects of worship were multiplied, till a present deity was seen in every work of nature.

In like manner the worship of dead men degenerated into the adoration of their representatives. Every apotheosis was the consequence of some real or imaginary benefit rendered to mankind; and that animal which possessed, or was emblematical of similar qualities, was considered sacred to the deified person. Sometimes the significant allusion of their names to those of certain animals, gave the impulse to the same adoption. Thus Isis was worshipped under the figure of a swallow, because Sis was the name of that bird; and each deity was hieroglyphically designated by the picture of his peculiar symbol.

The doctrine of transmigration, or the introduction of the souls of dead men into the bodies of animals, was a fruitful, though more subsequent cause of the superstitious, and even devotional attachment of many nations to the most loathsome animals. If men could be persuaded that the soul of a dead hero had passed into the body of a brute, it would be an easy task to transfer the worship from an invisible god to his visible representative. Thus it was inculcated that the soul of Osiris had passed into a bull, and that of Diana into a cat; these animals were therefore esteemed sacred, and divine honours paid to them as the visible essence of the deity they represented.

⁷ Hence Gr. *λυαβας*, a year, or a revolution of Luc, *λυσιος*, an epithet of Apollo. *λυαβητος*, a name of Mount Parnassus, equivalent to Luca.—Bet. the Temple of the Sun. *λυορας*, the morning light. *λυρος*, a lantern. *λευρος*, white or shining. *λυκος*, a wolf, from its being sacred to Luc or Apollo.—Lat. Lux, light. Lucus, a grove, from its being usually planted round the high places of Luc. Lucerna, a lantern. Luco, to shine.—Eng. Luck, from the usual metaphor of prosperity being represented by light, and adversity by darkness.—(Fab. Mya. Cab. Vol. I. p. 29.)

Hieroglyphical writing lent a high sanction to this species of idolatry, and ultimately transferred the rites of divine worship to the father of evil. The hieroglyphic for God was a star, and the symbol to represent a star was a serpent. Hence from the worship of God under that peculiar symbol, proceeded the worship of this reptile; and, hence Satan had temples erected to his honour, and was adored under his own immediate and familiar emblems; being also, like the celestial gods of the heathen world, honoured with divers significant appellations. Forsbroke, in his *Encyclopedia of Antiquities*, cites a passage from a sermon preached in the year 1683, to this effect: "Some do rightly style him *Poluonomus*, one full of names, as Argus was of eyes. *Persequitus me hostis, cui nomina mille, mille nocendi artes*, as Hierome saith, an enemy pursueth me, which hath a thousand names, a thousand subtil devices to annoy or hurt us. And indeed in the scriptures, both of the Old and New Testaments, we finde a great varietie of names ascribed unto him; as when he is called a serpent, a lion, a dragon, a fox, a cockatrice, the leviathan, the evil one, the tempter, the envious man, the accuser of the brethren, Satan, the devil, &c."

Thus, by the influence of Spurious Freemasonry, the human race, in successive ages, sank from one extravagance to another, till they worshipped as mediators, not only the stars and planets, but also their various symbols and representatives, animals and reptiles, trees and vegetables, stocks and stones, and even the most loathsome insect was not without its devotees. The serpent became one of the greatest and perhaps the most ancient deities; and the besotted people fell down by thousands in devout adoration of a filthy beetle or an insignificant fly. To such an extent of degradation had even the wise and learned Greeks degenerated, that it is said they worshipped one statue of Jupiter covered with horse-dung, and another, called Jupiter Apomyos, in the shape of a fly!

In a word, as Tertullian expresses it, they had "new gods, old gods, barbarous gods, and Greek gods; Roman gods and strange gods; gods whom you have taken captive, and gods whom you have adopted; your own country gods, and common gods; he gods and she gods; married gods and unmarried gods; gods artificers or lazy gods; city gods or peregrine gods; rustic gods or urbane gods;

clownish gods and civil gods; sailing gods and fighting gods."

And yet, amidst all this abomination, it is remarkable how truly they propagated the externals of the Order, and with what fidelity they adhered to the ceremonies and symbolical machinery of the system which inculcated virtue by precept, but failed to enforce it by example. Thus, I quote from Brother Laurie's History of Freemasonry in Scotland:—"Those who were initiated into the Mysteries, were bound by the most awful engagements to conceal the instructions they received, and the ceremonies that were performed. None were admitted as candidates till they arrived at a certain age, and particular persons were appointed to examine and prepare them for the rites of initiation. Those whose conduct was found irregular, or who had been guilty of atrocious crimes, were rejected as unworthy; while the successful candidates were instructed, by significant symbols, in the principles of religion, were exhorted to quell every turbulent appetite and passion, and to merit, by the improvement of their minds and the purity of their hearts, those ineffable benefits which they were still to receive. Significant words were communicated to the members; grand officers presided over their assemblies; their emblems were exactly similar to those of Freemasonry, and the candidate advanced from one degree to another, till he received all the lessons of wisdom and virtue which the priests could impart. But besides these circumstances of resemblance, there are two facts transmitted to us by ancient authors, which have an astonishing similarity to the ceremonies of the third degree of Freemasonry."

In the succession of schools instituted by the philosophers of Greece, every new system laboured to defeat its predecessor; and the great variety of speculations, which have reached our times, only tend to shew the vast superiority of revelation over the vague conclusions of unassisted reason; and all unite to fix the conviction more firmly on our minds, that there exists in the world one only source of truth, whose credibility no argument has been able to shake; and that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, like their Divine Author, are the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

The distortion by which these great truths were mutilated and disguised, arose out of the fancy which the heathen possessed for allegory and mystification; and, in many instances, separate traditions were blended, which renders the search after truth still more confused and uncertain. Indeed, the primitive traditions "would have been abundantly more clear," says Bryant, "if the Greeks had not abused the terms traditionally delivered, and transposed them to words in their own language. Nothing has produced greater confusion in ancient history, than the propensity which the Greeks had of reducing every unknown term to some word with which they were better acquainted. They could not rest till they had formed every thing by their own idiom, and made every nation speak the language of Greece." After all, there might have been some design in this, for Strabo confesses that "it is impossible to persuade females and the uneducated multitude to embrace religion by reason and philosophy; and, therefore, *we are obliged to resort to superstition*, which cannot be accomplished without the intermixture of fable. The thunderbolt, shields, tridents, serpents, spears, attributed to the gods, like all the system of polytheism, *are but fictions*; but the legislature made use of these things, to keep the silly multitude in awe through the influence of superstition."⁸

The true explication of the complicated system of hieroglyphics which had been imbedded in the Mysteries was believed to be attainable by initiation only. The acquisition of this knowledge was reputed to convey a high degree of satisfaction and delight; and the initiated were accustomed to boast, that on them the LIGHT shone abundantly and exclusively;⁹ that they only were entitled to exclaim: "I have escaped an evil—I have acquired a benefit;" that all learning and knowledge, and every other acquirement were theirs alone; that the Mysteries were the only things of any value in this life; and that in the next, the initiated were certain of admission into the happy gardens of Elysium. In a word, to say nothing of the fact, that no person was capable of holding any office of trust without a previous knowledge of these orgies, initiation was reputed to convey absolute per-

⁸ Strabo. Geogr. l. i. p. 13.

⁹ Aristoph. Ran. Act 1.

fection; and it was implicitly believed that the poor forlorn wretches who were not entitled to a participation of its privileges, were sure to lead a life of extreme misery and privation, and at last be condemned to eternal torment in the dark shades of Tartarus. Servius on I Georg. speaking of the mystical van of Bacchus, says, *et sic homines ejus mysteriis purgabantur sicut vannes frumenta purgantur.*

Warburton gathers, from a remark of Origen against Celsus, that nothing absurd was *taught* in the Mysteries; thus drawing a clear line of distinction between doctrine and practice. It is quite certain that the latter was extremely defective; for these institutions contained much vice and abomination. Like the true Freemasonry, indeed, they encouraged the cultivation of science, which was hence practised with great success in those countries where initiation was most in request; and the high degree of perfection which the fine arts attained in the heathen world was owing, in a great measure, to the patronage and example of the chief officers of the mysteries. And such an example of fraternal union appears to have subsisted amongst the initiated of every clime, that the Mysteries of vanquished nations were ever respected, and in all public treaties were specially exempted from desecration.¹⁰

It was the unanimous opinion of antiquity that the mysteries were pure at their original institution; and that it was owing to a series of imperceptible causes that they were subsequently deteriorated. Thus Livy says: "Many institutions, contributing to the improvement of both the body and mind, were imported from Greece." And Cicero testifies the same thing. "Though Athens produced many excellent expedients to improve the human mind, nothing was better than the mysteries, which are truly called *initia*, or rudiments of life; for they not only teach mankind to live happily in this world, but to hope for more supreme happiness hereafter." Plato had before expressed a similar opinion; and to add greater weight to the testimony, he put it into the mouth of Socrates, who had been accused of despising these institutions.

¹⁰ Thus when the Eleusinians submitted to Athens, it was agreed that, on the surrender of their property, they should be still protected in the celebration of their mysteries. (Paus. Attic 38.)

"Initiation," says he, "symbolically signified, that whoever was not admitted into the lesser, and made perfect by the greater mysteries, should be punished by wallowing in the mire and dirt of Hades; but he that had been purified and perfected, should, on the contrary, dwell with the gods." And Isocrates commends them as fortifying the mind against the fear of death, and inspiring hopes of a happy immortality.

When such was the veneration for these Rites, it may be easily conceived that initiation would be in great request. And accordingly we find that all, who had any regard for their personal reputation or future happiness, were anxious to acquire a competent knowledge of the Mysteries through that legitimate medium. This was a Freemasonry which penetrated through all ranks of mankind except the very lowest; because the requisites for initiation were, that a man should be a *free born* denizen of the country, of mature age, sound judgment, and strict morality.¹¹ Hence, neither slaves nor foreigners could be admitted;¹² because the doctrines therein revealed were considered of too much value to be entrusted to the keeping of those who had no interest in the general welfare of the community. St. Austin, quoting Varro, says that such a communication might have been prejudicial to the state; for slaves were not unfrequently plotters of mischief, and fomenters of sedition; and a suspicion whispered against the truth of the popular religion would have constituted a fearful engine in the hands of an artful and enterprising conspirator, by which the people might have been moved at pleasure. The vulgar were therefore kept in awe by the supposition of some hidden mystery, which it would be fatal to penetrate.¹³

The effects which were thus produced, even in the most refined states, and periods, have excited the indignation of all posterity. The uninitiated and slaves were

¹¹ "Since the benefits of initiation were so vastly great, no wonder if the hierophants were very cautious what persons they admitted to it; therefore such as were convicted of witchcraft, or any other heinous crime, or had committed murder, though against their wills, were debarred from these mysteries; and, though in later ages, all persons, barbarians excepted, were admitted to them, yet in the primitive times, the Athenians excluded all strangers, that is, all that were not members of their own commonwealth." (Potter, Arch. vol. 1. p. 419.)

¹² Diod. Sic. 5.

¹³ Liban. Decl. 18.

considered no better than outcasts; and the laws, even of Lycurgus, maintained the policy of brutifying their minds to the lowest point. "Never was human nature degraded," says Mitford, "by system, to such a degree as in the miserable Helots. Every imaginable method was taken to set them at the widest distance from their haughty masters. Even vice was commanded to them. They were compelled to drunkenness, for the purpose of exhibiting to the young Lacedemonians the ridiculous and contemptible condition to which men are reduced by it. They were forbidden every thing manly; and they were commanded every thing humiliating, of which man is capable while beasts are not."¹⁴

By requiring virtue in every candidate, it was intended to prevent the commission of *public* crime; for it is well known that, unlike the Freemasonry of which they vainly imagined themselves to be possessed, the indulgence of private vices was at least connived at in these institutions, if not openly encouraged.

The Lesser Mysteries were accessible to all ranks and descriptions of people—even women and children were not rejected. "Influunt turbæ," says Apuleius, "sacris divinis initiatæ, viri fœminæque, omnis ætatis, et omnis dignitatis." But these inferior celebrations consisted merely of a few simple rites, which constituted the ceremony of admission to the practice of their religious duties, like Jewish circumcision, or Christian baptism; and all the information communicated at that solemnity was limited to a few mythological facts respecting the principal deities, which might tend to confirm the aspirant in his belief of the virtues which would arise from a steady conformity to the current system of polytheism.

Discite justitiam moniti, ed non temnere Divos.

ÆN. vi. 620.

The lesser festival, says Archbishop Potter, was used as a preparation to the greater; for no persons were initiated in the greater, unless they had been purified at the lesser; the manner of which purification was this: Having kept themselves chaste and unpolluted nine days, they came and offered sacrifices and prayers, wearing

¹⁴ Mitford. Greece. i. 317.

crowns and garlands of flowers, which were called *Ismera* or *Imera*; they had also, under their feet, Jupiter's skin, which was the skin of a victim offered to that god. The person that assisted them herein was called *Udranus*, from *udor*, i. e. water; which was used at most purifications; themselves were named *Musta*, i. e. persons initiated. About a year after, having sacrificed a sow to Ceres, they were admitted to the superior Degrees.¹⁵

But the Greater Mysteries, which contained the doctrines so clearly revealed in the Mosaic history, and which appertain to the designs of Providence in the salvation of man¹⁶—veiled, indeed, and often misunderstood—were of too serious a nature to be thus freely exposed. They were communicated only to a select few, and even to them under the most awful sanctions. This will account for the silence of the early historians on most of these subjects. Cuvier concludes, most unphilosophically, that all remembrance of the Deluge was lost because it is not mentioned by Sanchoniatho, neither “are any traces of it to be found in Egypt in ancient records.” The fact is, that this knowledge was preserved in the Mysteries by the Anaglyph, or sacred character of the priests; and to whomsoever it might be revealed, its publication was prohibited under heavy penalties. As in the genuine Freemasonry, secrecy was recommended and enforced by every possible expedient. The Egyptians set up a statue of Harpocrates, with his right hand on his heart, and his left pendant by his side, and full of eyes and ears, but without a tongue—to intimate that whatever may be seen and heard in the mysterious celebrations, ought never to be spoken. The Greeks, in like manner, erected a statue of brass at Athens without a tongue, to enjoin secrecy; and the Romans had a goddess of Silence, who was represented with her forefinger on her lips.

These practical lessons made such an impression on the people, that from a simple suspicion that Eschylus had introduced into one of his plays some reference to the mysterious doctrines, the poet preserved his life only by taking sanctuary at the altar of Bacchus, until he had an opportunity of appealing to the Areopagus.¹⁷ Pausa-

¹⁵ Potter Arch. i. 420.

¹⁶ Clem. Alex. Strom. 5.

¹⁷ Ibid. Strom. 2. Aristot. l. 3. c. 1.

nias, in his History of Greece, assigns to the mysteries such a venerable sanctity that he is obliged to pass over them in silence.¹⁸ And, in another place, he excuses himself from making a revelation of their secrets by a very ingenious device. "I intended," he says, "to have entered on a particular description of the Eleusinian temple at Athens, and all its services; but my design was prevented by a prohibition *communicated to me in a dream*."¹⁹ And he accuses Homer²⁰ of boldness for the insertion of certain particulars in his poem *respecting the souls in Hades*, or, in other words, respecting the initiations. Horace was thus pointed in his opinion respecting those who betrayed the secrets of the Spurious Freemasonry:—

Est et fideli tuta silentio
 Marces : vetabo qui Cereris sacrum
 Vulgarit arcane, sub iisdem
 Sit trabibus, fragilemve mecum
 Solvat Phaselum.

OD. iii. 2. 25.

Indeed, the priests of all nations were so chary in the revelation of their sacred Mysteries, that it constituted their chief boast that no one was able "to lift up their veil."

To make the impression still more affecting, the Greater Mysteries were celebrated at dead of night, in the deep recesses of caverns, amidst darkness and seclusion, attended with horrible representations of the sufferings which departed souls endured who had died without regeneration, or, which is the same thing, who had incurred the displeasure of those in whose custody these institutions were placed.

And many a godlike form there met his eye,
 And many an emblem dark of mystery.

SOUTHEY. *Kehama*. xvi. 2.

And the open sanction of the civil magistrate²¹ was added, if it be true that the Senate assembled after each celebration, to enquire whether it had been conducted according to the prescribed formula, without irregularity or profanation.

When the mind had been subdued by these scenes to

¹⁸ Measen. iv. 33.

¹⁹ Paus. l. i. 14.

²⁰ Measen. p. 17.

²¹ Andoc. de Mys. vol. I. p. 159.

the requisite point of implicit submission and unreserved faith and obedience, the ineffable doctrines, on which the whole fabric of true religion rests, were gradually unfolded as profound secrets, the very whisper of any one of which could only be atoned for with life. "*Si quis arcanae mysteria Cereris sacra vulgasset, lege morti addicebatur.*" These were the Unity and Trinity of the Godhead, including the startling fact, that the popular deities of their mythology were only dead men, who had been canonized by their ancestors for benefits rendered to mankind; the creation and institution of a Sabbath; the fall of man by means of a serpent-tempter, and his restoration through the voluntary obedience of a Mediator, who should bruise the serpent's head; the universal deluge; and a future state, with its necessary concomitant, the immortality of the soul.

These are doctrines which were essential to the true Freemasonry in all ages of the world; and still remain to invigorate our Order with the vivifying principle of religion, without which Freemasonry would be a skeleton of dry bones, and unworthy the attention of a rational being. That they formed part of the imitative systems of antiquity, there is no lack of proof. On all the above points the evidence is full and clear; not consisting in detached and solitary allusions, and dark hints thinly dispersed throughout the writings of antiquity, but broadly declared in language which cannot admit of cavil or doubt.

And there is nothing in the admission of this fact which is inconsistent with the attributes of the Deity. If the Governor of the Universe thought proper to permit such an universal defection from truth, it was intended not only to conduce to some further purposes of his providence, but as a means of contributing to the perfection of those secret purposes which were designed for the ultimate benefit of all his creatures. King, in the "*Origin of Evil*," maintains the principle, that if God had been inclined to have removed this evil, it would have been at the sacrifice of a certain portion of good. On a full inquiry into this intricate subject, we shall find that, as St. Paul assures us,²² he did permit idolatry and its attendant

²² Acts. xiv. 16.

mysteries to exist amongst mankind, for the purpose of conveying throughout the whole world the sublime truths connected with his gracious purposes respecting our salvation, although human perversity studiously endeavoured to throw them into shade.

LECTURE V.

ON THE ORIGIN OF HIEROGLYPHICS.

But on the south, a long majestic race
Of Egypt's priests the gilded niches grace,
Who measured earth, described the starry spheres,
And trac'd the long records of lunar years.
Between the statues obelisks were plac'd
And the learn'd walls with hieroglyphics grac'd.

Pope.

I HAVE asserted, and in a future Lecture shall endeavour to prove, that a system of symbolical instruction was profusely used in the Spurious Freemasonry of ancient times—but this is not enough for my purpose. I must first make it appear that the elementary principles of the system originated amongst the sons of Light; trace its existence in the infancy of time, and show that it pervaded the more ancient institutions of truth, and was sanctioned by the approbation of the Deity.

The knowledge of symbols is of great importance in the illustration of Freemasonry, because they were used in all its branches, whether Speculative, Operative, or Spurious. A dissertation, therefore, on their nature and properties will be of peculiar utility, because the chief excellence of our sublime science consists in its emblems, which embody every thing that is commendable and praiseworthy in the system. I assume that alphabetical characters, in their primitive state, were but a series of substantive emblems, or simple representations of language, which itself, in the first ages of the world, was so figurative as to constitute a speaking picture.

Shuckford, in his *Connection of Sacred and Profane History*, has expressed an opinion that “the first language had but one part of speech; and consisted chiefly of a few

names for the creatures and things mankind had to do with." The arguments used in support of this proposition do not appear conclusive. The art of thinking, which is the arrangement of our ideas from the perceptions of natural objects, cannot exist without some degree of reason; and the various and abstruse combinations of reason will scarcely be produced without the use of words expressing *qualities*, action, or passion, as well as connectives to draw consequences, or blend ideas which are relative, uniform, and rational. Adam was possessed of this faculty, for he named the animals from the observation of individual properties possessed by each. Thus his perception furnished him with ideas; his ideas produced reasoning, and reasoning was completed by the use of language. He observed that each beast had some symbolical property, and the word which expressed it was adopted as the name of the animal. If it be objected that, before the Fall, animals were equally peaceable, and that it was during this season of quiet and tractability that Adam gave them names, the conclusion will be the same, so far as respects the argument in question; for it is sufficient to know that the names he gave them were expressive of those actual qualities by which they were afterwards distinguished, for the knowledge of their future characteristic properties might have been dictated by inspiration.

And this is confirmed by the method which Eve afterwards observed in giving names to her children. When Cain was born, she said: "I have acquired *possession* of a man of my own species: I will therefore call him Cain;" which word signifies acquisition or possession. Her children she bore in *sorrow and pain*, in consequence of the curse, and therefore she named her second son Abel, which signifies affliction.¹ After the murder of Abel and the migration of Cain, God *appointed* her another son, whom she named Seth, because that word signifies to appoint. These are evidently deductions drawn from premises, which is reasoning in its simplest or most elementary state, and constituted the germ of picture writing,

¹ Dr. Lamb (Hierogl. p. 57) interprets these names differently. Cain, he says, means *man of my womb*; Abel, *son of a living creature*; Seth, *of fair complexion*.

which was the earliest form that written characters assumed. But this reasoning could scarcely have been used without words expressing something more than the abstract names of animals.

But God conversed with Adam in the garden of Eden, and communicated to him his relative situation, both with regard to himself as his superior, and to the animals which he had placed in subjection under him. He gave him rules and directions for the government of his conduct, and threatened the infliction of a terrible penalty in case of disobedience. But could all this have been effected with the assistance of that limited degree of knowledge which Adam is said to have enjoyed in paradise, aided by the confined faculty of speech which the use of only *one sort of words* could afford? Could the denunciation of the penalty which produced such dreadful effects as to need the revelation of a Saviour to soothe the troubled minds of our first parents; could the sentence of banishment, and the curse of thorns and thistles have been pronounced without some other aid? Surely not. And the divine beneficence would not have left his favoured creature darkened by ignorance, without the power of self-improvement, except by the slow and gradual progress of human sagacity and invention. We know that man was endowed with reason and speech; we conclude that he was also endowed with words sufficient to use those faculties for his own immediate gratification and benefit; and these words being figures of the things represented, constituted the first approach to hieroglyphics or alphabetical characters.

Expressive symbols, however, were coeval with the creation of the first man, of which the divine covenant itself is an example; for the trees of life and knowledge were emblematical of life and happiness, or death and misery. The latter symbol was realized by the transgression of Adam when the Shekinah was introduced to figure the divine displeasure. At the deluge the olive leaf was a symbol of peace, and the rainbow of reconciliation. Thus early had the system an existence.

It is true, grammar was not reduced into the form of a distinct science until the experience of many ages, and the invention of many arts and sciences had taught mankind the necessity of placing language under certain laws,

in order to render it fixed and permanent ; for so long as it continued arbitrary and changeable, there existed no certain method of distinguishing the thing meant by the thing expressed. The common intercourse of mankind would indeed, during the first ages, tend to prevent this effect ; but when mankind were dispersed over the whole face of the earth, and the intercourse of different nations was only accidental and casual, many essential alterations would ensue to change the nature and idiom of the original language without the protection of grammar. But when language became restricted within certain prescribed limits, numerous and rapid improvements would take place. Expressions and phrases would become more precise and correct ; less circumlocution would be necessary : and the introduction of new words, as occasion might require, would obviate the harshness necessarily attending that recurrence of the same expression which is now called *tautology*. The first languages were less comprehensive and more simple than those of later date, but they do not yield to any in sublimity and force.

It was in this state of language that alphabetical characters were probably first used. They were purely hieroglyphical ; and there is great probability that the progress of refinement would improve and simplify these primitive characters, which, as in the known case of China, would be infinite in number and diversity, by the substitution of signs that would be more easy of adaptation to general use. Accordingly, in the alphabets of Abubkr, preserved by Ben Washih we may trace, without any difficulty, the connection between concurrent alphabets, and the transitions from one to another, as the ideas of men developed themselves, and suggested the utility of a comprehensive system of notation which might blend simplicity and usefulness. "The original mode of writing," says Spineto,² "was the exact figure of the object which, for the sake of diminishing labour, became first a simple drawing of the outline ; and ultimately an arbitrary mark, which produced the three different modes of writing amongst the Egyptians, generally designated by the appellations of hieroglyphic, demotic, and hieratic."

² Hier. ix. 297.

Another cause hastened and advanced the art of a conventional system of written signs or characters, as a means of recording events, or transmitting knowledge to posterity; viz. the imagery in which primitive language was clothed. Rhetoric is a science which sprang naturally out of language; for the rudest savages will express, with simple energy, love and hatred, accusation, persuasion, and defence. Hence this science existed in the very first ages; unrestricted, indeed, by rule or method, and governed only by the passions and affections of those who used it. Primitive argumentation was rude and unembellished; and directed solely to the purpose in view. A striking instance of this is exhibited in Cain's defence against the divine accusation. At first he sternly denies any knowledge of the fate of his brother; but, to qualify this bold falsehood, he resorts to subterfuge: "Am I my brother's keeper? When his sentence is pronounced, he endeavours, by a subdued language, to awaken the pity of his judge, in mitigation of punishment: "And Cain said unto the Lord, my punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth, and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass that every one that findeth me shall slay me.³ Another specimen of this sort of rhetoric occurs in the address of Lamech to his wives; and these are sufficient to authorise the conclusion, that the language of Adam and the first world was sufficiently copious not merely for the purposes of a civil and social state, but it possessed enough of character to convey to posterity the great truths of creation and providence.

Before language assumed the form of copiousness it has since attained, it would perhaps be difficult to express a flow of ideas without circumlocution, or the use of symbolical imagery; and thus, what are now esteemed the graces and ornaments of style, were originally adopted from necessity. And this very necessity would suggest a form of written expression to perpetuate facts. Thus, in what is called the Nabathean alphabet, which is reputed

³ This speech would form a striking Picture, if printed in hieroglyphical characters.

to be antediluvian, this method was used. If, for instance, they wished to record the fact of a man having died a violent death, they used these characters.

And nothing could more strongly express the seven kinds of violent death, than these figures, viz. : death by lightning, the guillotine, by a serpent, a hatchet, poison, a dagger, or the cord.



In the early simplicity of an unformed language, qualities were described tropically, or by the use of visible objects which appeared to possess similar attributes. Thus, to express the quality of firmness of mind, and personal strength and courage, recourse was had to some stately or majestic production of nature ; and the *oak* and the *lion*, being observed to display the quality of firmness in its highest perfection, were used to convey the idea. Hence a warrior was termed a lion or an oak ; while on the other hand a weak and irresolute man was designated by a reed ; insincerity by a serpent, and fidelity by a dog. These figures, if scrawled with a staff upon sand, would have been picture-writing. But the probabilities are, that historical events, at the least, would be depicted in symbols on tablets, for preservation by the heads of tribes, or as the hieroglyphics or sacred writings of their respective families ; including all the great events and predictions which it would concern posterity to know. This was a part of the true, and the origin of the Spurious Freemasonry of ancient times ; and hence the heathen probably derived the traditions of truth which their systems undoubtedly contained.

The above practice, being necessarily prevalent in general use, it may be readily conceived that when mankind first began to feel the necessity of some method of written communication, it would be at once transferred to the tablet. Accordingly, we find that the origin of hieroglyphics was this very picture-writing ; which would be exceedingly simple, and consist merely of a representation of any concise fact they wished to record, by scrawling some visible object connected with it. Experience would soon proclaim the total inadequacy of this plan. Gradual improvements arose to meet the necessities of ripening knowledge, and *hieroglyphics*

glyphics were invented, to designate invisible objects or qualities; and, in process of time, these were combined and formed into a regular system. But whether the use of alphabetical characters sprang out of hieroglyphics, is a question on which the evidence is very imperfect and unsatisfactory. The truth is, that in the most early times letters and hieroglyphics were probably the same;⁴ and they were the ripened fruits of a system of picture-writing, by exchanging the hieroglyphic for a phonetic character. "When once this important discovery was made, these characters would shortly be reduced to the same, or nearly the same, form as we now find them. The number of consonants does not depend upon the genius of each particular language, but upon certain organs of the animal man; and, as these are uniform throughout the whole race, the same alphabet would be applicable to every language. This discovery would soon be known to the neighbouring nations; and in no very long time it would be generally adopted. Each separate people would not repeat the process by which the first inventor had arrived at so happy a result; but would, if I may be allowed the expression, translate their own pictures into the two and twenty sounds already provided for them. And hence it is that we find almost every nation claiming to itself the discovery of letters. Each one, no doubt, may put in a claim for

"The letters of the ancient Egyptians, like those of the Hebrews, and of several other nations, may have been distinguished by names, which primarily expressed leading ideas, and, at the same time, were appropriated also to a variety of objects, in which those leading ideas presented themselves. In this case, the term could be represented by the figure of either of the objects to which it was applied. Let us, for example, suppose that the letter B was called *Bai*, and that such a term primarily imported *being* or *existing*. We are told, that *Bai* was the Egyptian denomination for a branch of the palm tree, and that this tree was anciently regarded as an emblem of being, existence, or immortality. Again, Horapollo says, *Bai* signified a hawk, the soul, and the wind; therefore, the Egyptians used the hawk as a symbol for the soul. The Greeks called the palm branch *Baion* or *Bais*: and *Beta* or *Baita*, the letter B, preserves the sound of the Hebrew *Beth*, or the Egyptian *Bai*; but the idea of the name in Greek, may be collected from *Ber-bai-oo*, to confirm, establish, or place in a permanent state of existence. The Latins called this letter *Be*, nearly the simple name of the *Bai*, or symbolical palm branch. And *Be* in the Celtic, conveys the same leading idea of *existence*. Irish *Be*, is the term for life; Cornish, signifies *Be, am, art, is, existent*." (Dav, Celt. Res. p. 339.)

this honour, as far as it consists in having reduced pictures to a phonetic language, after that the first discoveries had given them the key."⁵

The question is, by whom were letters actually invented? It may be surmised, from the assertions of ancient authors, that such characters were in use before the flood. Pliny affirms that the Pelasgi, the founder of whom was a man in Japhet's line in the eldest times, first brought letters into Latinum; and that they were in Italy before the Lydian colony under Tyrrhenus came thither and expelled them. And the Lydian colony was but four generations after the time of Menes. The most ancient Greek letters were called Pelasgic; and the Pelasgi were termed divine, because, says Eustatius, they, amongst all the Greeks, were the only preservers of letters, after the flood.

Sanchoiatho, however, attributes the invention of letters to Thoth, the grandson of Ham. But Thoth received the elements of this knowledge from Noah; for the above author expressly asserts that Thoth imitated the art of picture-writing practised by Ouranus or Noah; and delineated the sacred characters that formed the elements of this kind of writing. It was owing to the exertions and learning of this prince, that the Egyptians soared so far beyond the rest of the world in the arts and sciences, and the refinements and even elegancies of social life. While many of the tribes which had migrated, remained in a state of semi-barbarism, Egypt became a populous, well-governed, powerful, and happy people. And with them the use of letters and hieroglyphical characters of most extensive meaning and application, was carried to a perfection unknown to the rest of the world.

If these testimonies be admitted, it will appear that letters, or phonetic characters, were used by Noah, *after* the flood; and we may very reasonably conjecture that he was not ignorant of them *before* that event, because he was 600 years of age when he entered the ark; and there is no existing evidence to prove that he invented them afterwards.

If we take another line of argument, the result will

⁵ Lamb. Hier. p. 2.

be the same. Pliny says that letters were *always* found among the Assyrians; and that the ancient Hebrew and the Assyrian letters were the same. The reason why we meet with no supposed author of the Assyrian letters is, that they were certainly not invented by that people. Mankind had lived many hundred years before the flood, and it is scarcely to be believed that they lived without the use of alphabetical characters. It is highly probable, then, that Noah was skilled in them, and taught them to his children. The knowledge of this art he might receive from Methusaleh, the son of Enoch, to whom his father had communicated much of the information which he had collected by study and experience. And in Jonathan's Targum on Genesis, we find Enoch termed the Great Scribe. Eupolemus says that Enoch was instructed *in all things* by angels, letters, of course, included. Bar Hebreus affirms that Enoch was the first who invented books, and different sorts of writing. All these authorities combine to verify that fragment of Alexander Polyhistor, preserved by Scaliger, where mention is made of the keeping of certain records written *before the flood*.

Hales conjectures, "from the whole of ancient history, both sacred and profane, that the art of alphabetical writing not only could, but actually did, precede the establishment of hieroglyphics; and that the invention of alphabetical language was not superinduced by a mixture of other nations; nor could it be so superinduced. First, The book of the genealogy of the antediluvian patriarchs from Adam to Noah, is evidently represented as a written record. Gen. v. 1. And, indeed, how could it possibly record their names, and their generations, residues of life, and total ages, without written words? How could oral tradition hand down, through two and twenty centuries, to the deluge, unimpaired, thirty large and unconnected numbers, rising from a hundred to near a thousand years? Secondly, some Jewish and Oriental traditions ascribe the invention of writing to Seth, the son of Adam; others to Enoch, the seventh from Adam; whether well-founded or not, it proves the prevailing opinion that letters were of antediluvian date."^a

^a Hales. Anal. Chron. Vol. I. p. 370.

In the mass of facts here collected, it may be supposed, that, under some circumstances, the ideas attached to letters and hieroglyphics have been confounded, and the one may have frequently been mistaken for the other. The use of hieroglyphics amongst idolaters, appears, from the above reasoning, to have been almost coeval with that apostacy which seduced men from the knowledge of God and the practice of true religion. The hierophant was very fond of delivering his instructions in an ambiguous manner; for it was believed that learning would be deteriorated, and science insulted, if they were displayed so plainly as to be intelligible to the vulgar and uninitiated.⁷ Sanchoniatho informs us that Thoth drew the portraitures of the gods in mystical characters, and inscribed columns with hieroglyphics;⁸ an evident proof that symbolical instruction was used in his days; and he flourished only three generations after the flood.

The truth being thus artfully concealed from the people, error gradually usurped its place; polytheism was insensibly introduced, and each emblem was worshipped as a god. This perversion was secretly encouraged by the priests, until the error became engrafted into the whole system of worship practised by almost every nation under the sun. Thus Apuleius, when describing the wonders which he beheld during his initiation into the Spurious Freemasonry, says that the hierophant took certain mysterious writings out of the sanctuary, which contained the Signs, Words, and Tokens, expressed by marks, symbols, and figures of animals, so intricately combined, that it was impossible to understand them without a deliberate and accurate explanation.⁹

In Egypt, as we have seen, the use of symbols may be almost identified with the colonization of that country; for we are told that the pyramids, at their original erection, were covered with hieroglyphical characters, which have been defaced by time and exposure to the weather. Every historical and religious truth taught to the aspirants in the Spurious Freemasonry were wrapped in

⁷ Procl. in Tim. Platon. l. 1. Cicero de divin. l. 1. Plin. Nat. Hist. l. 2. c. 12.

⁸ Ensch. de prasp. evan. l. 1. c. 9.

⁹ Apul. Metam. l. 2.

hieroglyphics; and isolated facts in morality and physics were frequently blended, or designated by a compound symbol; and the invention of phonetic characters was the result. Thus the science was not only difficult of attainment, but uncertain when accomplished. It is historically clear that to Egypt every people resorted for information on the essential parts of symbolical knowledge; without which, even the initiations themselves would have failed to convey any additional privileges; and this knowledge was therefore thrown by the priests into the most abstruse and difficult form, and every successive Degree had its peculiar system of appropriate emblems.

The hieroglyphics of Egypt, which will be more particularly considered in a subsequent Lecture, were thus of a varying and uncertain character; and different ages furnished new symbols, probably when the more ancient ones became known. Thus, Dr. Young says: "several of the manuscripts on papyrus, which have been carefully published in Hamilton's Description of Egypt, exhibited very frequently the same text in different forms, deviating more or less from the perfect resemblance of the objects intended to be delineated, till they became, in many cases, mere lines and curves, and dashes and flourishes; but still answering, character for character, to the hieroglyphical or hieratic writing of the same chapters, found in other manuscripts, and of which the identity was sufficiently indicated; besides the coincidence, by the similarity of the larger tablets, or pictural representations, at the head of each chapter or column, which are almost universally found on the margins of manuscripts of a mythological nature. And the enchorial inscription of the Pillar of Rosetta resembled very accurately, in its general appearance, the most unpicturesque of these manuscripts. It did not, however, by any means agree, character for character, with the 'sacred letters' of the first inscription, though in many instances, by means of some intermediate steps derived from the manuscripts on papyrus, the characters could be traced into each other with sufficient accuracy to supersede every idea of any essential diversity in the principles of representation employed. The want of a more perfect correspondence could only be explained, by considering the sacred cha-

racters as the remains of a more ancient and solemn mode of expression, which had been superseded, in common life, by other words and phrases; and, in several cases, it seemed probable, that the forms of the characters had been so far degraded and confused, that the addition of a greater number of distinguished epithets have become necessary, in order that the sense might be rendered intelligible."

LECTURE VI.

EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE SYMBOLS USED IN THOSE SPURIOUS INSTITUTIONS WHICH ATTAINED THE MOST PERMANENT CELEBRITY IN THE ANCIENT WORLD.

After these appeared
A crew who, under names of old renown,
Osiris, Isis, Orus, and their train,
With monstrous shapes and sorceries abused
Fanatic Egypt and her priests, to seek
Their wandering gods, disguised in brutish forms
Rather than human.

Milton.

IN ancient times, when leaders and commanders were chosen by lot, Dionysius of Syracuse drew the letter M, which a friend, in the anxiety of his mind, interpreted unfavourably, and exclaimed: "You will acquit yourself *foolishly*, O Dionysius, and your oration will be laughed at; for your initial means *Μωρολογεῖς*." Dionysius was of a different opinion; for he felt confident of his own powers, and replied: "You are mistaken, friend, my lot is *Μοναρχησῶ*; I shall be a monarch." And he was right; for his speech produced such a strong impression on the audience, that he was chosen general of the Syracusan army on the spot. Here we have a striking evidence of the very equivocal nature of signs and symbols at that early period. Hieroglyphics of every kind were of doubtful interpretation, even to the initiated, except they had been admitted to the very highest degrees. And here—what was the secret? It was nothing less than a development of the plan of human salvation by the future advent of a Man-God, or Mediator. Thus was Christianity, under the direction of Providence, the aim and end of these remarkable institutions. But this great truth, and its details, in the shape of tradition and

prophecy, were buried so deeply in hieroglyphics as to be unintelligible to common comprehensions; and the popular versions were so much at variance with each other, that little credit could be attached to any of them. They resembled the superstitious figments of our own times, which induce, in the minds of weak and uninstructed persons, a belief in the efficacy of charms for agues, toothache, fits, and sciatica; amulets to prevent mischance and danger; philters for love, and omens which foretell the accidents of life. Such a circle of awful mystery was drawn around the hieroglyphical knowledge of ancient times, by the hierophant of the Spurious Freemasonry, that the people bowed before the symbols inscribed on tombs, obelisks, and temples, and worshipped them with great devotion, as though they were instinct with the divine essence, and possessed perception and power to bless or ban; to distribute benefits or inflict calamities.

We have seen, in the preceding Lecture, that the origin of hieroglyphics was picture-writing. This was very simple, and consisted merely of the representation of any concise fact it was thought desirable to record, by scrawling some visible object connected with it. Experience soon proclaimed the inadequacy of this plan. Gradual improvements arose to meet the necessities of ripening knowledge; and hieroglyphics were invented to designate invisible objects and qualities; and in process of time these were combined and formed into a regular system. Thus they considered the hawk as an emblem of the supreme Deity because of its piercing sight and swiftness; the asp, the cat, and the beetle were also honoured as images of the Divine power; the first as not being subject to old age, and moving without the assistance of limbs; the cat, because they imagined she conceived by her ear, and brought forth her young by her mouth, representing the generation of speech; and the beetle, because they supposed there was no female in the whole species. The crocodile also they took to be another image of the Deity, because, of all animals, it has no tongue, which organ God has no occasion for.¹

¹ Univ. Hist. vol. I. p. 232.

The method adopted by the Chinese is thus explained by Li Yang Ping; and has been communicated by that eminent scholar and antiquary, Sir William Jones. "The ancient characters used in this country were the outlines of visible objects, earthly and celestial. But as things merely intellectual could not be expressed by those figures, the grammarians of China contrived to represent the various operations of the mind by metaphors drawn from the productions of nature; thus the idea of roughness and rotundity, of motion and rest, were conveyed to the eye by signs representing a mountain, the sky, a river, and the earth; the figure of the sun, moon, and stars, differently combined, stood for smoothness and splendour, for any thing artfully wrought or woven with delicate workmanship; extension, growth, increase, and many other qualities, were painted in characters taken from the clouds, from the firmament, and from the vegetable part of the creation; the different ways of moving, agility and slowness, idleness and diligence, were expressed by various insects, birds, fish, and quadrupeds. In this manner passions and sentiments were traced by the pencil; and ideas not subject to any sense, were exhibited to the sight, until by degrees new combinations were invented, new expressions added; the characters deviated imperceptibly from their primitive shape; and the Chinese language became not only clear and forcible, but rich and elegant in the highest degree."

It is asserted by Bin Washih, that the first dynasty of the earliest Egyptian kings "invented, each according to his own genius and understanding, a particular alphabet, in order that none should know them but the *sons of Wisdom*. Few, therefore, are found who understand them in our time. They took the figures of different instruments, trees, plants, quadrupeds, birds or their parts, and of planets and fixed stars. In this manner these hieroglyphical alphabets became innumerable. They were not arranged at all in the order of our letters; but they had proper characters agreed upon by the inventors of these alphabets, and which differed in their figure and order; viz.: they expressed water by an indented line. They understood the secrets of nature, and endeavoured

to express everything by an appropriate sign, so that they might express it by its appearance."²

The Egyptian writing, at the period of its greatest perfection, was of three sorts; the Epistolic, the Hieroglyphic, and the Symbolic; while, in addition to these, the priests had another species of picture-writing, which was termed Hierogrammatic. This latter they entrusted to none but those of their own order. Modern writers have subdivided the above into Pure hieroglyphics, or pictures; Linear hieroglyphics, or emblems; Phonetic hieroglyphics, or the representatives of sounds; and Demotic, or Epistolographic or Enchorial writing for the business of common life. And they invented another system of magical communication which imbedded Cabalistic secrets in comprehensive phrases, that were not only mysterious, but absolutely formidable to the ignorant. Thus soothsayers were called, *magic alarm posts*; philters and dangerous compounds, *treasure chambers*; the knowledge of spirits, *astrological tables*; mysterious things, *conjuring spirits*; pyramids, *secrets of the stars*, &c. But the symbolic writing was most comprehensive, and, for greater secrecy, became subdivided into three parts, which were denominated the Curiologic, the Tropical, and the Allegorical, each admitting of a different method of interpretation, the secret of which was communicated only to a select few. Thus, for instance, in the Curiologic style, the moon was pictured by a crescent, tropically by a cat, and allegorically by the figure of Isis, or a veiled female.

Bin Washih, above cited, gives an account of the following series of hieroglyphics as existing in a temple in Upper Egypt; which is valuable because it contains a vivid picture of the legend of initiation into the mysteries. "This building was a temple of Adonis, whom the sun and moon serve. It represents *a coffin* adorned with curious figures and admirable ornaments. *A sprig of vine*

² The above author has enumerated a vast variety of alphabets, and with great industry has collected the hieroglyphical characters of most of them, including antediluvian alphabets, those of the kings and philosophers, one for each of the twelve signs, and the seven planets, &c., to the number of eighty, which embody an abundance of symbols used in the mysteries, as well as many which have been incorporated into genuine Freemasonry.

growing, with its leaves spread over it. The divinity was standing upon the coffin, with a staff in his hand, out of the end of which a tree shot forth and overshadowed it. Behind the coffin was seen a pit full of blazing fire, and four angels catching serpents, scorpions, and other noxious reptiles, throwing them into it. On his head a crown of glory; on his right the sun, and on his left the moon, and in his hand a ring with the twelve signs of the Zodiac. Before the coffin an olive tree sprouted forth, under the branches of which different kinds of animals were collected. On the left, and a little further back, a high mountain was seen, with seven golden towers supporting the sky. A hand stretched forth from this sky, poured out light, and pointed with its fingers to the olive tree. Here was also the figure of a man whose head was in the sky, and whose feet were on the earth. His hands and feet were bound. Before the deity stood seven censers, two pots, a vase filled with perfumes, spices, and a bottle with a long neck (retort), containing storax. The hieroglyphic representing day, was under his right foot, and the hieroglyphic representing night under his left. Before the divinity was laid, on a high desk, the book of universal nature, whereon a representation and names of the planets, the constellations, the stations, and every thing that is found in the highest heavens, were painted. There was also an urn filled half with earth and half with sand, (*viz.*, the hieroglyphics of earth and sand being represented therein). A suspended, ever-burning lamp, dates, and olives, in a vase of emerald. A table of black basalt with seven lines, the four elements, the figure of a man carrying away a dead body, and a dog upon a lion. These, O brother," says the author, "are the mysterious keys of the treasures and secrets of ancient and modern knowledge. The wise may guess the whole from a part."

The spirit of modern discovery has furnished the world with a more correct knowledge of Egyptian hieroglyphics; and the investigations of Denon, Champollion, Belzoni, Salt, Dr. Young, and others, have stamped the impress of truth on an abstruse and difficult subject, which has puzzled all antiquity. From this source we learn that the unity of the deity was symbolized by a rude sort of mallet or hammer; and a plurality of gods by three of the same to represent the triad. Phre, by a point within

a circle; Cneph, by a serpent or a cross within a circle; a female by a semicircle and an oval. Hyperion, by an anchor; country, a ladder with four staves; land, a saltire cross within a circle; divinity, a sistrum; a tear was literally represented, according to Young, by a drop from an eye; but Salt is of opinion, that this emblem represented the goddess Athor in the form of a cow. The symbol of life was a cross and circle, commonly called the *crux ansata*; sometimes it was a lamp, and sometimes it was represented by water, because that element is essential to animal and vegetable existence. This was sensibly felt in Egypt, where vegetation depended entirely on the inundation of their sacred river. The emblem of eternity was a serpent; of immortality, two semicircles and the *crux ansata*. Equity was designated by a plume of feathers; silence by a peach tree; and the mouth by a palm tree. Three heads conjoined, symbolized counsel; three arms, action; three legs, expedition; and three hearts, courage. A rite or ceremony was designated by the All-seeing Eye, and an indented line; and joy, by an equilateral triangle. Spring, summer, autumn, and winter, were symbolized by a dog, a lion, a serpent, and a wolf. The moon, by a cat with two kittens, one black and the other white, denoting its phases; and equity, by a crown of ostrich plumes, or of the bird *Phœnicopteros*.

Champollion thus describes the hieroglyphics on a bas relief which forms the architrave of the door of entrance to the tomb of Pharaoh Ramses:—In the centre is the sun with the head of a ram; an emblem of the monarch of the day retiring in the west to cheer the southern hemisphere with his radiant beams; and is adored by the king kneeling. On the east is the goddess Nephthys, and in the west Isis. Near to the sun is a scarabæus, a symbol of regeneration. The king kneels on the celestial mountain, which supports also the feet of the two goddesses. The general interpretation of these hieroglyphics means that the monarch, during his life, like the sun in his course from east to west, enlightened and regenerated his country, and was the source of all the blessings, civil and religious, which a happy people enjoyed.

The hieroglyphical researches of Champollion, Salt, and others, have furnished a phonetic alphabet, in which

each letter is represented by a variety of symbols or characters. But even this arrangement, how correct soever it may be in principle, presents some natural difficulties. The Egyptian alphabet did not contain more than twenty characters; but the above writers have produced upwards of a hundred phonetic signs. Some confusion will, therefore, necessarily arise in the interpretation of a monumental inscription, when several hieroglyphics are appropriated to the same letter. I subjoin a few of these phonetic signs in illustration of my subject.

A—A human figure kneeling; a goose; a twisted rope.

N—A winged eye.

Y—A hawk; a volute.

B—A man's leg; a sheep.

D—Two horizontal lines; a scarabæus; the left hand.

E—A feather; a knife blade.

G or K—A level or quadrant.

J—A man's arm.

L—A lion seated.

M—A bier; an owl; a crown.

N—A line wavy; the crux ansata.

O—A volute; a fan.

P or Ph—A square.

R—A weaver's shuttle; a point within a circle; an undulating serpent.

S—A star; an egg; a naked figure.

T—A human hand.

Th—A semicircle.

Z—A cross rising from a heart.

Of all the hieroglyphical systems which pervaded the heathen world, or were introduced into the Spurious Freemasonry, none could compete, in accuracy of intention, or comprehensiveness of meaning, with the symbols of Pythagoras; and they form the connecting link between the spurious and the true Freemasonry. In former publications I have had occasion to introduce brief sketches of this great philosopher and Freemason, and his system of hieroglyphics. Indeed, in every work professedly on Freemasonry, the subject is indispensable, as it forms a part of our own private lectures; and many of the emblems possess a reference in common with those

of our Order. It has been even asserted by an ancient writer on Masonry, that Pythagoras "journeydde ffor kunnyng yn Egypte, and in Syria, and yn everyche londe, whereas the Venetians hadde plaunted Maçonrye, and wynnyng entraunce yn al lodges of maçonnes, he lerned muche, and retournedde and woned yn Grecia Magna, wackayng and becomyng a myghtye wysacre, and gratelyche renowned, and her he framed a grate lodge at Groton (Crotona) and maked manye maçonnes, some whereoffe dyde journye yn Fraunce, and maked manye maçonnes; wherefromme, yn processe of tyme, the arte passede yn Englonde." Under such circumstances, a clear and somewhat copious dissertation on his system of symbolical instruction may be both useful and entertaining. And to make the subject intelligible, I shall give a brief sketch of his life and initiations.

The country of Pythagoras does not seem to be well settled. Some say he was a Simian, some a Tyrrhenian, and others a Tyrian; but it is clear that his birth and future eminence were foretold by the oracle at Delphos. In his youth, his person was so beautiful as to have obtained for him the surname of the Samian Comet, or the fair haired Samian. He had many masters, whose names are famous in science and philosophy. Pherecydes, Anaximander, and Thales, were amongst the number; and all were astonished at the quickness of his understanding and the excellency of his judgment. He travelled through Phenicia, and was initiated into the mysteries of Tyre and Byblus, and from thence he proceeded to Egypt, where, after an extraordinary display of fortitude and perseverance, he was received into the sacred institutions of that country.⁸ Here he was favoured with full instruction

⁸ His probation is thus described by the authors of the Universal History. "Designing to travel into Egypt, he desired Polycrates, the tyrant of Samos, to recommend him by letter to Amasis, king of Egypt, who was his particular friend, that he might have the freer admission to the secret learning of the priests. He obtained also of Amasis letters to the priests, ordering them to communicate their knowledge to him. He went first to those of Heliopolis, who referred him to the college at Memphis, as their senior; and from Memphis he was sent, under the same pretext, to Thebes. After much tergiversation, not daring to disobey the king's command by any farther dilatory excuses, they endeavoured to deter Pythagoras from his purpose, by the infinite labour and trouble he was to expect; enjoining him, in his noviciate, things that

by the priests at Heliopolis, Memphis, and Thebes, in all the secrets of their mysterious learning—Geometry, Astronomy, Philosophy, and particularly in the knowledge of hieroglyphical symbols, which were so extensively applied, that the wisdom and experience, civil, religious, or political, of this remarkable people, could only be acquired by a perfect understanding of their principles and application, and the art of deciphering the characters, under every combination adopted by the Egyptian hierophants to conceal their mysteries from profane inspection.

After visiting Babylon, where he was instructed in Music, Arithmetic, and other mathematical sciences, he had the advantage of communication with many learned Jews, from whom he derived a knowledge of that divine science which we call Speculative Masonry. And archbishop Usher affirms that he transferred many of their doctrines into his own system of philosophy.⁴ He increased his knowledge by conversing with the Persian Magi, and the Brahmins of India; and in the fifty-sixth year of his age, he began to communicate his knowledge to his own countrymen. For this purpose he visited successively Samos, Delos, Delphi, Crete, Sparta, Olympia, Phlius; and having filled all Greece with the fame of his institutions, he passed over to Italy; settled at Crotona, and died there, after disseminating his philosophy with such effect, that Italy was named in his honour, Magna Grecia.

At Crotona he established his first lodge of philosophers;⁵ modelling his ceremonies and doctrines on a plan improved from the rites of Orpheus, of Egypt, of Samothrace, India, Chaldea, Tyre, Judea, and the mysteries of Eleusis. Laertius says that six hundred persons underwent a severe probation of five years, silence, during which period they were instructed in the exoteric doc-

are very hard, and contrary to the religion of the Greeks. And when he had undergone all this trial with invincible courage, he obliged them at length, against their wills, to admit him to a participation of their sacred mysteries and profound learning."

⁴ *Annal.* p. 151.

⁵ Valerius Maximus relates that when Pythagoras founded his school, he was asked what was the name of his system? To this question he replied: I am not *sophos*, wise, but *philo-sophos*, a lover of wisdom; and my disciples shall be called Philosophers.

trines of his system; hearing his lectures from behind a screen, without enjoying the privilege of being admitted to his presence. This was termed the nocturnal *acroasis*. After having worthily passed their probation, they were admitted to participate in the esoteric secrets, and became a part of his family; but if the patience or constancy of any one failed during this long trial, he was rejected with scorn, and a tomb was erected for him; because he was accounted morally dead; and if any of the Pythagorean brotherhood met this unfortunate outcast in their walks, they either passed him without notice, or used the more mortifying ceremony of saluting him by a false name.

An universal bond of brotherhood was inculcated by this great philosopher upon his esoteric followers, and Cicero informs us that this maxim was constantly in his mouth—"the design of friendship is to make two or more—one. Men ought to be united." From such a system of training, the disciples of Pythagoras became so celebrated for their fraternal affection towards each other, that when any remarkable instance of friendship was displayed, it became a common proverb—they are members of the Pythagorean Society.

The principal and most efficacious of their doctrines, says Iamblichus,* they kept secret amongst themselves, with perfect *echemythia* towards the uninitiated. They did not commit them to writing, but transmitted them to their successors by oral communication as the most abstruse mysteries of the gods. By this means nothing of moment became publicly known. Their peculiar secrets were only known within the walls of their lodges, which were always kept closely tyed; and, if by any accident, profane persons were found amongst them, they signified their meaning one to another by signs and symbols.

From the picture drawn by Porphyry, Laertius, Cicero, and others, there appears to have been something very dignified and almost superhuman in the person and appearance of this celebrated Freemason. He wore a white robe or gown, as an emblem of purity; and was of a comely and divine presence. Porphyry informs us

* Cap. 17.

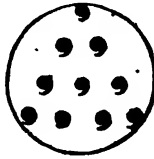
that by abstemiousness and moderation in diet, he preserved his body in a state of perfect regularity, and kept his passions in subjection. He was addicted to neither joy nor grief; and his mind was constantly calm and serene. He was never seen in a condition of anger or ebriety, and, in his public disputations, refrained alike from ridicule, scoffs, and personal allusions. In a word, his disciples conceived him to be one of the celestial deities, who had descended from heaven for the reformation of mankind.

The hieroglyphics or symbols of Pythagoras, which constitute the object of our present enquiry, contained his esoteric doctrines, and were of two classes; the one a visible emblem, as an animal, or some geometrical figure; the other, a short and pithy sentence or apothegm, which possessed the quality of combining many ideas or sparks of truth, as Iamblichus expresses it, for those that are able to enkindle them, and constituted a lecture in itself; for one great feature in the system of Pythagoras was to comprehend many things in few words.⁷ And these apothegms were so highly esteemed, that some have compared them to "the divine oracles of Apollo."

The first class of hieroglyphics may be thus briefly explained. The equilateral triangle was the deity; for Pythagoras taught that whatsoever had a middle was a triform; and the triform figure constituted perfection. It was, indeed, esteemed the most sacred of emblems, and when an obligation of more than usual importance was administered, it was universally given in a triangle, and when so taken none were ever known to violate it. So highly did the ancients esteem the figure, that it became among them an object of worship, and the great principle of animated existence, and they gave it the name of God, affirming that it represented the animal, mineral, and vegetable creation. The sacred Delta is usually placed in all squares and circles; and as it is supposed to extend its ramifications through all matter and space, it is considered the *summum bonum* of existence. A ship, a chariot, and fire, represented by the monad or number one, were symbolical of love, concord, piety, and

⁷ Stob. Ser. 35.

friendship. They also referred to an hermaphrodite, because the monad partakes of the nature of odd and even;² for being added to odd it makes even, and being added to even makes odd.³ A key was a symbol of the tetrad, and the tetrad was God, because he is the key-keeper of nature. It was also an emblem of the soul, which consists of four parts,—mind, science, opinion, and sense. The duad represented Light, and the pentad, darkness. The hexad or triple triangle was an emblem of health; but Pierius thinks the word *vyusa* should be inscribed within the exterior angles. The decad or number ten was used to typify heaven, the universe, age, fate, and power; and a series of reasons were assigned for each similitude. The symbol was ten commas or jods placed in the order of the first four digits; for ten was produced from four, the Tetractys or Sacred Name.



On this symbol Pierius thus comments: *Decadis autem vis est quaternarius numerus; secundum enim compositionem a monade ad quaternarium punctis in unum contractis ac supputatis, decas fit. Decies autem decem, centum; decies centum, mille; millia decies, summa perfectissima.*

Schalichius said that Pythagoras made the monad and the duad the origin of all things. "One, the father, two, the mother, one and two, in the divine essence, producing four, the Tetractys, the idea of all things, which are consummated in the number ten." This Pythagoras styles "eternal nature's fountain;—no other than the knowledge of things in the divine mind, intellectually operating. From this fountain of eternal nature floweth down the Pythagoric numbers, one and two, which form eternity, in the fountain of the immense ocean, was, shall

² Macrobi. in Som. Scip. l. 1. c. 6. ³ Theop. Smyrn. Mathem. c. 5.

be, and always is, plenteously streaming. Thus one was by the ancients termed Jupiter, two, Juno, wife and sister to Jupiter. In Ida, Jupiter and Juno sat as one and two in the streaming idea of the Tetractys; whence flow the principles of all things, Form and Matter."¹⁰

An anchor represented magnanimity and fortitude. "These," said Pythagoras, "no tempest can shake. Virtue alone is firm; every thing else is unstable." Fortitude was also symbolized by a rock amidst the waves of the sea. A bridle was symbolical of wisdom; because, as a horse cannot be governed without a bridle, so also are riches without wisdom unmanageable and pernicious. The poppy was an emblem of a city; and its multitude of seeds represented the abundant population. The iris signified eloquence; the hyacinth, wisdom; the myrtle, grace; and the hyssop, the expiation of sin. The fig represented humanity, and sometimes sycophancy; the pomegranate, populousness; the ivy, antiquity; the thistle, disease; the toadstool, folly or stupidity; ears of corn, fertility; the branch of palm was a token of joy, and used as an emblem to express the conviction that trouble had been exchanged for prosperity; the willow, bonds, chastity and barrenness; and the rose, modesty. Long hair was a symbol of mourning, and short hair of joy. Honey was used to intimate to the initiated, that the individual presenting it was free from malice or any other evil passion. A ring betokened ignorance, because ignorance enslaves the mind, as the finger is bound and fettered with this little circle of gold. A crown symbolized the laws; and, therefore, the phrase, "pluck not a crown," meant, offend not the laws which are the crown of a nation. The rainbow was an emblem of the sun's splendour; the balance of avarice; anger was represented by fire, and contention by a sword. A torch, from its united qualities of brightness and purity, was an emblem of philosophy.

The use of animal hieroglyphics amongst the followers of Pythagoras, was very extensive in its application and symbolical meaning. According to this system, the ox was an emblem of patient industry; the elephant, of fidelity, justice, and piety; the bull, of ferocity; the horse,

¹⁰ *Staal. Hist. Phil.* vol. 3. P. 1. p. 149.

of fame and swiftness; the dog, of fidelity, friendship, memory and gratitude; the lamb, of innocence; the ram, of boldness, profanity, and slander; the ass, of laziness and indocility; the camel, of strength and abstinence; the mule, of sterility; the hare, of timidity and fecundity; the mole, of opacity of intellect; the hawk, of victory; the kite, of navigation; the dove, of chastity; the stork, of filial piety; the parrot, of eloquence; the cock, of pugnacity, and, as a "monitor of the hours," he was a symbol of time; the goose, of vigilance; the heron of a tempest; the quail, of impurity; the thrush, of deafness; the kingfisher seated on its nest, of tranquillity; the red-breast, of solitude; a swallow, of sloth and idleness, because it appears to labour only a small part of the year.

Again, Spring was hieroglyphically painted by a basket of flowers; Summer, by a sheaf of corn; Autumn, by a cornucopia of fruits; and Winter, by a convivial party seated round a well furnished table before a blazing fire.

Geometrical figures are ever found amongst the symbols of Pythagoras, and he philosophised very frequently, in his private schools or lodges, on the elementary principles of that science—a point, a line, a superficies, and a solid; for they comprehended his favourite number, the tetrad; and he believed the quadrangular figure to symbolize the divine essence. Stanley presents us with a brief sketch of his lecture on these leading principles. "A point is correspondent to the monad: the monad is indivisible—so is the point. The monad is the principle of numbers, as the point is of lines. A line is correspondent with the duad; both are considered by transition. A line is length without breadth, extending betwixt two points. A superficies corresponds to the triad; besides length, whereby it was a duad, it receives a third distance, breadth. Again, setting down three points, two opposite, and the third at the juncture of the lines made by the two, we represent a superficies. The solid figure, and the body, as a pyramid, answers the tetrad; if we lay down, as before, three points, and set over them another point, behold the pyramidal form of a solid body, which hath three dimensions—length, breadth, and thickness."

The elements were symbolized by geometrical figures,

of which Pythagoras entertained the opinion that they were five in number. Earth was figured by a cube; fire by a pyramid; air by an octaedron; water by an icosaedron; and the sphere by a dodecaedron, which was hence used as a symbol of the universe. "If," said Pythagoras, "upon an octangular tube we erect a pyramid by four equi-crural triangles, it makes a dodecaedron, wherein the cube is, as it were, mother, and the pyramid, father." Again, a cube was an emblem of the Supreme Deity, as was also the equilateral triangle; while the scalene triangle figured the nature of demons, because its sides and angles were all unequal. When two scaleni of equal dimensions are united by the smallest of the lines which include the right angle, they form an obtuse angled triangle of the isosceles kind, when, by the larger of these two lines, an acute angled triangle would appear. But, in the latter case, their angles are to each other, in the arithmetical proportion of one, two, and three. They form an equilateral triangle, which may be justly considered as the most perfect of all trilateral forms, for the following reasons:—First, because it is equal in all its relations;—secondly, because it is capable of being reduced into the scalene and isosceles forms;—thirdly, because it is infinitely divisible, or may be infinitely multiplied into similar triangles equal to each other, without alteration of its form or relations;—and fourthly, because in every such division it observes the geometrical progression of the tetrad; and therefore it may be considered as a symbolical representation of that species of proportion.

The problems which he had the credit of inventing were these:

1. There are only three equilateral and equiangular polygons, which occupy the space about a point, viz., the equilateral triangle, the square, and the hexagon.

2. The internal angles of a triangle are equal to two right angles.

3. In any right angled triangle, the square which is described, upon the side subtending the right angle, is equal to the squares described upon the sides which contain the right angle.

Pythagoras used to deliver a most admirable lecture on the emblem of an angle of ninety degrees or a square,

placed on a perpendicular line, usually denominated the letter Y. This figure symbolized the three stages of human life, and had a further reference to the three steps or degrees used in the Spurious Freemasonry. The first stage is early youth, a state of preparation for the active business of life, and open to the impressions both of good and evil, according to the prevalence and effect of admonition and example. The youth is thus supposed to pass along the inferior limb of the figure, till he arrives at the angle where two lines diverge to the right and to the left, which was supposed to take place when he attained his maturity and discretion. The former represents the narrow path of virtue, which, if he be so fortunate as to choose, his life will be honourable, and his death glorious and full of hope. But should he, unhappily, turn on the way of pleasure and carnal indulgence towards the left, which appears broader, and consequently more joyous and tempting, his course will be full of trouble and sorrow; sloth and luxury will enervate his body, debase his mind, and poison his enjoyments, and he will close his life in ignominy, and his memory will be covered with reproach. Some think that he carried the comparison beyond the grave, and referred it to the two states of reward and punishment which distinguish a future life.¹¹

The symbolical precepts of Pythagoras are too numerous to be fully explained within the confined limits of a single Lecture. I shall, however, select a few of the most significant, to illustrate the use that was made of this kind of imagery in the Pythagorean lodges. He taught that the virtues which had the most beneficial tendency to adorn and dignify the nature of man were two-fold, viz., *to speak truth, and render benefits to our fellow creatures*, these being essential points of theoretical and practical virtue, and make mankind resemble the celestial deities; for God himself is in his body Light, and in his soul truth.

By the precept, *worship the gods with your feet uncovered*,

¹¹ It is probable Pythagoras might have taken the idea of this symbol from the ancient Grecian fable of the two ways in hell—that to the right leading to all pleasure and happiness, and the other to endless misery. It was introduced by Virgil into his great poem. (*Æn.* vi. 540.)

he represented hypocrisy ; for he said that the soul, thus symbolized by the feet, ought to be naked during the time employed in sacrifice.

He recommended his followers to *decline highways and walk in foot-paths*; thus enforcing upon them the necessity of avoiding the pleasures and allurements of the world, and devoting themselves to the more strict and private pursuits of piety and philosophy.

Turn away a sharp sword; or, in plainer language, use prudence; and, in your intercourse with mankind, shew that your initiation has conferred its proportionate degree of purity, by the due government of your passions, by keeping a tongue of good report, and by avoiding anger, wrath, and evil speaking.

Take off your right shoe first, but put your left foot first into the bath. Good actions were symbolized by *the right*, and evil ones by *the left*. It is, therefore, by the exercise of judgment and right reason, and a due application of the lessons taught in the Lodge, that the former will be cherished, and the latter rejected.

Discourse not of the Pythagorean philosophy without Light, was another maxim, by which he recommended prudence; and it was hence symbolized, as in our Lodges, by a blazing star. Without light, this philosophy could not be acquired; but, by its prudent study, the industrious candidate gradually emerged out of darkness, and became enlightened with the true wisdom, which was inculcated in the esoteric, or higher degrees of the Spurious Freemasonry.

When in travel, turn not back, for, if you do, the furies will accompany you. This symbol was more beautifully expressed by the Saviour of mankind. "No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of heaven."¹² The Pythagorean symbol had a similar reference. The study of philosophy, once commenced, should never be relinquished, lest it produce an unavailing repentance, which was considered equivalent to Erinnyes or the fury.

Look not in a glass by candle-light. Pursue Lux and not Lumen; the reality and not the shadow or reflection.

¹² Luke ix. 62. The same idea is terrifically painted in the parable of the unclean spirit. Luke xi. 26.

Philosophy¹³ is a steady, substantial reality, and not a flickering blaze, which expires when the light from which it emanates, and to which it owes its existence, is withdrawn.

Do not give the right hand of fellowship to every one, indiscriminately. If you enter into a league of friendship with uninitiated persons, it is possible you may be betrayed; for, none are worthy of esteem and confidence, but such as have been tried and proved by long discipline, and found faithful. To such the grip may be safely given, without fear or scruple.

Eat not the heart. A very pithy and important symbol. It recommends to the fraternity to be obliging, communicative to each other, and void of envy. The interpretation of this emblem is given in the masonic distich:

And all the contentions 'mongst Masons should be,
Who better can work, and who better agree.

Break not bread. Avoid slander and defamation; for they may separate friends and change them into enemies. *Sleep not at noon.* Do not close your eyes to the Light, when it invites your attention; or to instruction, when it is most clear and refulgent. Against the crime of suicide, Pythagoras gave his disciples this admonition: *Do not quit your station without orders.* And finally, as a persuasive against changing meekness into anger, he directed them, *never to roast that which is boiled.*

From this copious specimen of the Pythagorean symbols, their nature and characteristic properties may be fairly estimated. The dictates of sound wisdom are observable throughout the mass, although it is, in some instances, debased by redundant metaphors and absurd trifling. The sterling wheat is mixed with chaff. As a whole, however, his system was noble, stately, and dignified, and approached nearer to the foundation of true Light, than any other that existed in the heathen world, notwithstanding the defective opinions which Pythagoras entertained respecting God, and the true principles of divine worship. Had he lived half a dozen

¹³ It will be understood that, in these illustrations, the word *philosophy*, as used by Pythagoras, invariably refers to the doctrines of the spurious Freemasonry taught in his lodges.

centuries later, he would have maintained a distinguished rank amongst the holy Fathers of Christianity.

It will be apparent from the reasoning and examples contained in this Lecture, that the use and application of hieroglyphics was in all nations the same, viz.: to conceal important truths, and to illustrate valuable doctrines; nor is there any nation, either ancient or modern, but who veiled their abstruse knowledge in the "cloudy garment of hieroglyphics."¹⁴ In Britain, the system was carried out to an extent which equalled in ingenuity, if it fell short in copiousness of application, either of the instances which I have endeavoured to explain, differing, indeed, from the Egyptian arrangement, in that the symbols were not ostentatiously displayed on public monuments, but remained during the entire existence of the druidical religion, in the custody of the three orders of the priesthood, and transmitted solely by oral communication.

These hieroglyphics were used not only for the purpose of embodying thought and ideas, but an efficient scheme of augury was accomplished by their assistance. And the science of vaticination assumed, ultimately, so much importance in Britain, that it was deemed to be the chief advantage derivable from initiation; whence it was termed *rhyn*, or the secret. The method is known, and appears to have been as follows: trees of various kinds were acknowledged symbols of qualities. The tall and straight poplar denoted uprightness or integrity; the aspen, from the quivering motion of its foliage, symbolized instability or inconstancy; the oak, firmness; the birch, liberality, readiness, or complacency in doing a kind action. Thus, if a young woman accepted the addresses of her lover, she presented him with a branch of the birch tree; but if he were rejected, a twig of

¹⁴ "The coronation of the king of Pegu (if we may credit Vincent le Blanc, as he relates it in his Travels,) is wholly hieroglyphical; for he is invested or inaugurated with a Diadem of Lead, to signify that all things should be performed in weight and measure, and an axe is put into his hand, to denote that he should administer justice; he takes his oath upon a small vessel of emerald, in which some of the ashes of the first kings of Pegu lie enshrined, to put into him a remembrance of human frailty; he is attired or adorned with a Turkish robe, lined or furred with the skins of white hares, to intimate his subsequent innocence." Philpot's Heraldry, p. 25—26.

hazle was the substitute. From a combination of these symbolical trees, marked by some mystical process, divination was practised and responses pronounced.¹⁵

From being symbols of qualities, these trees or sprigs at length became the representatives, first of things in general, then of sounds, and lastly of alphabetical characters; and this was the result:

A—The fir tree.	I—The yew.
B—The birch.	L—The quicken tree.
C—The hazle.	M—The vine.
D—The oak.	N—The ash.
E—The aspen.	O—The furze.
F—The alder.	R—The elder.
G—The ivy.	S—The willow
U—The heath.	

Subsequently the alphabet was formed of shoots of the apple tree cut in various forms, which was substituted as the more simple and certain process. But whether this was derived from the alphabet of the Dioscorides, and introduced by the Phenician merchants, I shall not attempt to decide, as it forms no part of my enquiry; but leave it to the judgment of my readers by introducing both.

Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y
 A L < > J P C H I K L W V > O T N Y ↑ Y V
 A B C D E F G H I J C H L M N O P R S T U V W Z

The reader will have no difficulty in tracing the rudiments of our Roman letters, in the above tally alphabet of the Druids. In all nations, alphabetical characters were not only used as symbols but were considered to possess supernatural virtues. Thus Colphotorios, the

Thus Taliesin boasted of his knowledge in this art.

I am acquainted with every *sprig*,
In the cave of the Arch diviner. (W. Arch. l. 34.)

Again, in a Poem entitled: "The First Greeting of Taliesin."

The points of the counterfeited trees,
What is it they whisper so forcibly?
Or what various breathings
Are in their trunks?
These are read by the Sages
Who are versed in science.

(Ibid. l. 33.)

philosopher, who was "deeply learned in the knowledge of spirits and cabalistic spells, in talismans, astrological aspects, and in magic and the black art, invented an alphabet to conceal his secrets. Philosophers and learned men have used this alphabet in their books and writings in preference to others, on account of its different extraordinary qualities. The alphabet of the sign Aquarius, under the influence of Saturn, was used by the Chaldeans and Sabeans in their incantation books, and also in their inscriptions relative to the science of spirits. And one of the first Pharaohs of Egypt constructed wonderful talismans and magical alarm posts, in an alphabet of his own invention."¹⁶ In like manner the druidical alphabet was esteemed to be magical. Ledwich says the same thing of the Irish alphabet, which was hence called *Bethluision na ogma*, or the alphabet of cabalistical letters; and it is well known that the Runic characters were used by Odin for magical charms and imprecations.

The general symbols of the Druids were, however, more diffuse and extensively diversified; and, like the hieroglyphics of other nations, were used as a mantle to conceal the acroatic or ineffable doctrines and secrets of their Spurious Freemasonry. Thus the serpent or dragon was a received hieroglyphic of the deity; and an egg of the creation or deluge; whence the ovum anguinum became the distinguishing mark of a druid, as the representative of him, who created the world out of chaos, and renewed it again after its destruction by the waters of the Deluge. The same spiritual officer was also known by his wand or rod, and his rings and glains; all emblematical of some peculiar properties which were supposed to be vested in him by virtue of his sacred character. The rod signified peace; the ring, eternity and power; and the glain, or boat of glass, was a symbol of preservation. These were sacred amulets, and believed, from their symbolical properties, to possess a secret power of averting danger. The goddess Ceridwen was symbolized or represented by a ship, a hen, a mare, a cow, a grain of wheat, and other emblems; by a scientific combination of which, various points in her character

¹⁶ Hammer. p. 7. 12. In this book are a host of testimonies to the same effect.

and history were exemplified. The cauldron of the goddess was emblematical of the arts and sciences; a bull represented the sun, and a beaver the patriarch Hu or Noah; for which this reason has been assigned. "The patriarch had built himself a vessel or house, in which he had lived in the midst of the waters; and which had deposited that venerable personage and his family safe upon dry ground. So the beaver is not only an amphibious animal, but also a distinguished architect. He is said to build a house of two stories; one of which is in the water and the other above the water; and out of the latter he has an egress to dry ground."¹⁷

The bee was an emblem of industry; the primrose, of dignity and power; the vervain of vaticination; the selago of divine grace. The oak was an hieroglyphic of the supreme god; and also symbolized an expanded mind, as the reed figured deceit, and the aspen leaf instability. The mistletoe was an emblem of fecundity; the rainbow of protection; and for this purpose it was feigned to surround the candidate during his initiation. The white trefoil was a symbol of union, not only from the circumstance of its including the mystical triad; but also because the Druids saw, or pretended to see, in every leaf, a faint representation of the lunette or six days moon, which was an object of their veneration from its resemblance to a boat or ark. It was the powerful pledge or symbol which demanded and conveyed mutual aid in the moment of peril; a never-failing token of everlasting brotherhood, esteem, goodwill, and assistance, even unto death. The chain was symbolical of the penance imposed on every candidate for initiation by his confinement in the pastos. The phrase, "he submitted to the chain," implied that he had endured the rigours of preparation and initiation with patience and fortitude. The spica, or ear of corn, was an emblem of plenty and prosperity; and a wheat straw was an invaluable symbol, and the conservator of many potent virtues.

Thus I close my view of the hieroglyphics and symbols which were peculiar to the Spurious Freemasonry; and it will be observed that the hierophant made a marked distinction between them. Thus hieroglyphics, as the

¹⁷ Dav. Dru. p. 267.

word implies, were used to represent divine or supernatural things, while symbols were confined to those which were sensible and natural; and hence, in the spirit of their maxim, that sacred things should be confined to sacred persons, hieroglyphical knowledge was in the custody of the priests alone; while others of the initiated were amused with symbolical illustrations. This distinction was too refined for general use, and, therefore, the priests were ultimately obliged to invent a new kind of hieroglyphic to preserve their peculiar secrets from being known.

Now though we deny that our system of Freemasonry was derived from the mysteries of heathen nations—for the offspring of pollution can never be made pure—yet I see no reason to reject the theory that, at its restoration by the Essenes and their successors, nay, probably at the building of king Solomon's temple, an arrangement, corresponding, in some of its component parts, with the symbolical system of Egypt, might, (for it is impossible to speak decisively on so intricate a point,) be incorporated into the original science; and be retained as a convenient mode of embodying and transmitting solemn truths, not only to secure their preservation, but also to produce a striking and permanent effect upon the mind. The extent to which they corresponded will be seen in a subsequent Lecture.

LECTURE VII.

THE TRUE FREEMASONRY IN ALL AGES SHEWN TO HAVE
BEEN "VEILED IN ALLEGORY AND ILLUSTRATED BY
SYMBOLS."

Lo, where our silent emblems breathe
Their sacred influence o'er the soul,
In mystic order rang'd: while round the whole
A starry zone the sister virtues wreath.
Ye, who by compass, square, and line,
Those hidden truths can well divine,
To all besides unknown.

Waller Rodwell Wright.

SPECULATIVE FREEMASONRY, as preserved and practised by the small portion of mankind who had not deviated from the true worship of the Creator, ran, like an irregular vein of gold amidst a heavy stratum of impure metal, throughout all the mysterious institutions of the ancient world; and its symbols and hieroglyphical interpretations, though of pure origin, became to a certain extent polluted by their introduction into the system of Spurious Freemasonry for the purpose of conferring a real value on its complicated ceremonies.

It will, therefore, be highly interesting to inquire in what manner, and to what extent the Jewish and Christian symbols may be assimilated with those of Freemasonry. But whatever might be the utility and worth of symbolical instruction in the caverns of initiation, we find it enunciated with still greater clearness and perspicuity under the patriarchal, Mosaic, and Christian dispensations; and even invested with the sanction of the Deity.

The ancient mythologies of all nations, display, in striking colours, the fondness of an unsophisticated

people for allegory; and the history of the heathen deities affords ample evidence of the existence of such a taste. In the infancy of the world poetry reigned triumphantly over the human heart, and expanded itself, not merely in thought, but in allegorical language and design. If the ideas of an uncultivated race were confined within narrow limits, they were rendered expressive by being embodied in poetical language, and embellished with figures of rhetoric, whence originated the art of picture-writing; which, as we have seen, was probably used before the Flood. But of all others, the Hebrew language was peculiarly susceptible of allegorical imagery. Take an instance from the prophecy of Isaiah. "My hand hath found, as a nest, the riches of the people; and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped. Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? Or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? As if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself as if it were no wood. Therefore shall the Lord send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire. And the Light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame; and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briars in one day; and shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body; and they shall be as when a standard-bearer fainteth."¹

This passage has been selected at random: it is full of types or hieroglyphics. And throughout the whole of the Jewish writings, they, in like manner, abound. Nothing, indeed, could be more general than the use of symbolical machinery amongst that people, if we may believe the testimony of learned men. It was engrafted into their system of worship, formed a constituent part of the mysteries of their religion, and was carried into operation in all their public and private avocations. No certain canon has been laid down for their interpretation; but there is a general reference to a more perfect system of religion, of which all their rites and ceremonies were

¹ Isai. x. 14. 18.

types and shadows. The leading truths cannot be mistaken, but the details admit of various and contradictory explanations. Thus the tree of Life, Jacob's Vision, the manna, the brazen serpent, the scape goat, the Sun of righteousness, &c. are symbols of a nature too plain and unequivocal to be mistaken. But the inferior emblems have been matter of endless conjecture.

Some of these hieroglyphical symbols have been considered of local operation by one commentator; while another, adopting a more general view, has differed widely in his exposition. Some are content with the simple and obvious meaning; others reason upon them analogically; while a third party resort to allegory and mystery for the true sense; and from these causes are often led astray by doubtful interpretations; but all agree that an emblematical signification is to be looked for in the ceremonies of the Jewish religion, and the circumstances attending the establishment of the Jewish polity. Thus by one writer the ten plagues of Egypt are explained in reference to the ten torments and pains of hell. "1. As the water was turned into blood; so all things shall be turned to the destruction of the ungodly. 2. Their frogs, signify horror of conscience. 3. Their lice, a restless and unquiet mind. 4. The flies denote that they shall be destitute of all help. 5. By the murrain of beasts, the perpetual punishment of their bodies was typified. 6. By boils, anguish of mind. 7. By hail, continual terror. 8. By locusts, the want of every good thing. 9. By the darkness, their loss of the favour of God. 10. And everlasting death, by the death of their first-born."² While Augustine refers these ten plagues to the transgression of the ten precepts of the moral law; and others to the same number of mercies which were vouchsafed to the people during their sojournings in the wilderness.

The dying Jacob, when blessing his children, used a series of a significant emblems to express the character and fortunes of their respective descendants; which were treasured up in their memory, and used as the insignia of the tribes after the great deliverance from Egyptian bondage. In the ancient book of Job, hieroglyphical

² Willet. *Hemph.* p. 128.

modes of expression frequently occur. The swiftness of time is symbolized by a weaver's shuttle; and the hypocrite's hope by a spider's web. The knowledge of the Deity is described as being "high as the heavens, deeper than hell, longer than the earth, and broader than the sea." Man is symbolized by a flower of the field; prosperity by a lighted candle; and adversity by a candle extinguished.

The pledge of fidelity and token of renunciation amongst the Jews, was, taking off a shoe; and joining of hands was a symbol of friendship and fidelity. Going barefoot was an emblem of sorrow and purity of heart; as were also sackcloth and ashes.³ David uses the emblem of a tree planted by the water side, to denote a just and upright man; and chaff for the worthless. To represent the divine justice he takes the similitude of a bow. The land of Israel is designated by the emblem of a vineyard; and the people by a vine. The expiation of sin was symbolized by hyssop; righteousness by a palm tree; which was also a peculiar type of Judea; and hence on some Roman coins, women are depicted seated under the palm tree, overwhelmed with grief; and circumscribed *JUDÆA CAPTA*. Mercy or piety were symbolically expressed by the cedar or citron tree; indecision by the failing of water brooks; irresolution by the perishing of summer fruits; instability by the evanescence of a morning cloud, and the withering away of seed that taketh no root; despair by the silence of the harp; righteousness and faithfulness by a girdle; strength by a lock of hair; and industry by the ant. The emblem to express the brevity of life was a hand-breadth.⁴

When the prophets communicated the will of God, it was frequently accomplished by the use of symbols or images of material things. As the rending of Samuel's mantle was a type to denote Saul's loss of the kingdom; the destruction of the altar at Bethel and the withering

³ Achilles strewed ashes on his head when overwhelmed with sorrow on hearing of the death of Patroclus. II. xviii. 23.

⁴ On this emblem Pierius says:—"In divinis literis, ut multorum theologorum est interpretatio *καλαστην*, vitæ brevis est quasi hieroglyphicum. Nam Psalmo, &c. Traductione, quam Rufinus citat, scriptum est—Ecce veteres posuisti dies meos.

of Jeroboam's hand were symbols of the reformation by Josiah. Zedekiah, though a false prophet, used the common imagery when he made him horns of iron, as an emblem of the destruction of the Syrians. Isaiah pronounced the annihilation of Sennacherib's army by the symbol of a hook in his nose and a bridle in his lips; and the lengthened life of Hezekiah by the retrogradation of the sun's shadow on the dial. The same prophet typified the captivity of Egypt and Ethiopia by walking naked and barefoot. Jeremiah symbolized the destruction of the people by a linen girdle; and their misery by bottles filled with wine; the power of God by a potter; and the destruction of the Jews by breaking a potter's vessel. By bonds and yokes he figured their captivity under Nebuchadnezzar; and by the type of good and bad figs, the return of the Jews with Zerubbabel, after the seventy years should be accomplished, and the land had enjoyed her sabbaths.

Ezekiel shewed the fearful judgments which awaited his countrymen, by the type of hair; and their slavery by a chain, by two eagles and a vine, and by a boiling pot. The fearful chambers of imagery which the Lord revealed to him in a vision, were the caverns of initiation into the Spurious Freemasonry. The hope of Israel's restoration was symbolized by a resurrection of dry bones. By the emblem of a gourd, the disaffection of Judah was reproved; the success of Zerubbabel was shown by a golden candlestick; and the two anointed ones by as many olive trees; while the violated covenant, and the quarrel between the two brothers, Judah and Israel, is forcibly displayed by that significant emblem, the two staves, Beauty and Bands.*

Such is a brief outline, copiously illustrated by facts, of the hieroglyphical system of the Jews at the period of their greatest glory. It was not enough that the doctrine should be enunciated simply by the use of metaphorical language in their conversation and writings; but it was plainly and obviously exhibited by the frequent use of material symbols, like those employed in Freemasonry. In some cases emblematical imagery was ex-

* It will be needless to observe that all the above illustrations are taken from the Holy Scriptures.

tended to apologue or fable. Of this nature is the message of Jehoash to Amaziah:—"The thistle that was in Lebanon, sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, give thy daughter to my son to wife; and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle." Hence we perceive that the frequent mention in scripture of men who "understand dark sayings, riddles, and parables," referred to the interpretation of hieroglyphical symbols. And it appears probable that the "difficult questions" of Sheba, and those which Darius says passed between Solomon and Hiram, were of the same description. A remarkable specimen how prevalent this kind of knowledge was amongst the Jews, is found in the writings of their great historian, Josephus; and I quote a passage in which this learned writer explains the secret meaning of many emblematical decorations which Moses had introduced into the tabernacle. "To any man," he says, "who deliberately and candidly examines the matter, it will plainly appear that the structure of the tabernacle, the sacerdotal garments, and the various vessels and instruments appertaining to the service of the altar, bear a strict analogy to the structure of the universe. The three divisions of the tabernacle may be compared to the earth, the sea, and the heavens; the two first of which divisions were open to the priests in general, whilst every person was forbidden to enter into the last, it being peculiarly appropriated to the residence of the Almighty. The twelve months of the year are signified by the same number of loaves of shew bread, which were placed on the table. The seven lamps over the branches of the golden candlestick, refer to the seven planets; and the seventy pieces of which the candlestick is composed to the twelve signs of the Zodiac. The four colours which are wrought into the curtains, as well the curtains themselves, are intended to represent the four elements. The earth, from which the flax is produced, was typified by the fine linen. The sea is represented by the purple colour, which derives its origin from the blood of the fish murex. The violet colour is an emblem of the air, as

* 2 Kings. xiv. 9. There are several instances of this in the Old Testament. See Judges. xi. Esak. xxiv. xxvii. &c.

the crimson is of the fire. With respect to the garment of the High Priest, the linen of which it is composed, represents the whole earth, and its violet colour the heavens. The pomegranates refer to the lightning, and the noise of the bells to the thunder. The ephod, with its four several colours, has a reference to the nature of the universe; and the intermixture of gold to the rays of the sun. The essen, or rationale, which is placed in the middle of the garment, denotes the situation of the earth, in the centre of the universe. The girdle which passes round the body of the priests, is a symbol of the sea environing the earth. The sun and moon may be supposed to be expressed by the two sardonyx stones; and either the twelve months, or the signs of the zodiac by the twelve other stones. The violet colour of the tiara resembles heaven; and it would have manifested a great want of reverence to the Deity to have inscribed his Sacred Name on any other colour. The splendour and majesty of the Supreme Being are signified by the triple crown, and the plate of gold."⁷

The same method of inculcating moral and theological truths was used by the Saviour of mankind. This great pattern of all that was good and virtuous, confessed that while he spake to his disciples plainly, and interpreted to them freely the meaning of all the symbols in which his discourses were enfolded, he addressed the people in parables, that "seeing, they might not see, and hearing, they might not understand."⁸ He designated himself by various similitudes, to exhibit the different points in his character, or to illustrate the doctrines which he came to teach. If he represented himself under the symbol of a vine, and his disciples as the branches, it was to pourtray his character as the Father of mankind; and to shew the intimate connection which subsists between him and his favourite people. And this emblem was in perfect keeping with the ancient system; for Judea was usually symbolized by a vineyard. A door or a way pointed out the doctrine of salvation through faith in his name; and was further emblematical of the sprinkling which the Jews of old were commanded to perform on the side-

⁷ Jos. Ant. Jud. b. 3. c. 7.

⁸ Mark iv. 11, 12.

posts and upper door-posts of their houses, that they might be saved, when the destroying angel passed through the land of Egypt to exterminate the first-born. A shepherd denotes the manhood of Christ; light and truth his Godhead. His doctrine was compared to leaven put into a lump of dough; and to figure the unlimited dominion which his religion should ultimately assume, he likened his disciples to a city set on a hill. The kingdom of heaven was a sublime object kept perpetually in view by a succession of striking and significant metaphors; all uniting their aid to confirm the great truth of Christian revelation, a future state of rewards and punishments.

By the emblem of a single eye, he referred to the light of truth; and by a wedding garment, to personal holiness. He compared his church to a grain of mustard seed, because of the smallness and obscurity of its origin, and its gradual enlargement to cover the whole earth; and to a net, which contained both good and worthless fishes, as the church receives members of every kind—but as the fisherman separates them, and casts the bad away, so will the Great Fisherman, at the day of judgment, separate the worthy from the wicked members of his church, and cast the latter into the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone. He also adopted various emblems to point out the repentant sinner, and the joyful acclamations with which his contrition is received by the hosts of heaven; such as, the lost sheep, the piece of silver, and the prodigal; while impenitent sinners were symbolized by tares, the barren fig tree, and the demoniac. Hypocritical pride and malice, he designated by the emblem of a beam and a mote. If he spake of living waters, he referred to the Holy Spirit of God, which had been frequently represented under that symbol by the Jewish prophets; and if he mentioned a strait gate, the symbol plainly meant a pure and holy life. He described his church under the figure of a pearl; the world as a cultivated field; the angels as reapers; and the final consummation of all things as a harvest. Thus was symbolical instruction used and applied by Jesus Christ. He knew the constitutional indifference of mankind too well to confide in the common method of conveying know-

ledge; and adopted the system of association, which is more efficacious in making permanent impressions than any other which philosophy could invent.

I have said that the Jewish religion is a type of Christianity. Let us, then, examine how the early Christian writers allegorized and explained the symbols which they found in the tabernacle or temple worship. The passover was an important ceremony which the Israelites were enjoined to observe with ritual punctuality throughout their generations; and indeed it was a type of the sacrifice of Christ, the true paschal lamb. Every ceremony attending this ordinance has therefore been taken symbolically, and applied to the Christian dispensation. Thus the time of killing the passover, viz., in the fourteenth day, or full of the moon, when nights were light, and darkness superseded, has been considered an emblem of Christ coming as a Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of the people of Israel. And it is remarkable that the Messiah was actually slain at the feast of the passover. On the tenth day of the month the Jews were directed to take a lamb, and keep it four days before it was killed. In like manner Christ entered Jerusalem on the tenth day of the same month, and was sacrificed on the fourteenth.

The paschal lamb was an emblem of Christ. It was without spot or blemish—Christ was without sin. It was a male—Christ was strong and powerful; and a male was further a symbol of perfection; which equally applies to Christ, for he was free from sin. The lamb was to be a year old, and consequently at its full strength—Christ was sacrificed in the vigour of manhood. A lamb is patient—so was Christ. Innocent—Christ was the same. The blood of the lamb was shed—as was also that of Christ. By this ceremony the Jews were protected from the destroying angel—by Christ's death we are delivered from the power of Satan. The blood of the lamb, in order to be efficacious, was to be sprinkled on the door-posts—the blood of Christ must be sprinkled on our hearts by faith. The lamb was to be eaten whole—Christ is a full and perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. There are many and various interpretations of such types; but this specimen will be amply

sufficient to display the general nature of their application and reference.

The construction, furniture, and ornaments of the tabernacle have been a fertile source of allegorical exposition. I have already adduced the opinion of Josephus on the subject; and I shall subjoin that of many eminent Christian writers. By its three divisions were symbolized the three Orders of the Church—Bishops, Priests, and Deacons; and in a more extended sense it has been considered as referring to the whole community of the faithful. As the High Priest only could enter into the Holy of Holies, so this division was emblematical of Christ our High Priest, who is now in the holiest place of heaven as our mediator. The holy place was accessible to the priests; and is thus an emblem of the ministers of the Church. While the third division, or Court, being open to the people, was a type of the whole company of the faithful wheresoever dispersed under the wide canopy of heaven. The large outer Court prefiguring the mission to the Gentiles; while the doors of the sanctuary were composed of fir and olive to signify peace on earth; and the two leaves of that which led to the Oracle symbolized the two theological virtues, Faith and Hope.

In the table for the Shewbread, the shittim wood of which it was composed, was emblematical of the Holy Scriptures; the four feet symbolized the four senses in which they conceived those holy writings ought to be understood; viz. historically, allegorically, tropologically, and anagogically, the four rings referred to the four evangelists. By the divers vessels used in the tabernacle worship, we have been called on to understand the diversity of gifts, communicated by the Holy Spirit; the twelve loaves symbolized the twelve tribes, including the whole Israel of God; the altar of incense, prayer, and thanksgiving; and the crown, eternal life. The golden candlestick was an emblem of Christ; the metal, denoting the purity of divine grace; the seven branches containing lamps, the seven spirits of God; and the knops and flowers, the graces and ornaments of a pious Christian's life. The ten curtains of the tabernacle referred to the Decalogue; the hair covering impervious to the weather, was emblematical of the priests and

ministers who defend the church from heresy; the red skins denoted those who suffered martyrdom for their faith; while the whole four coverings which defended the tabernacle, pointed to the protection which Christ has promised to his church—that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. The boards or pillars were symbols of the faithful; the bars, of the pastors of the church; and the foundation, Jesus Christ the Messiah of God.

The inner veil represented the heavens, which Christ hath opened to us by his blood. And, not to follow up this part of the subject till it becomes tedious, the ark of the Covenant was a symbol of the divine presence; the cherubim with which the doors and veils were profusely adorned, were emblematical of ministering spirits who execute the will and pleasure of the Deity; the palm trees denoted patience; and the golden cherubim of the Mercy Seat, referred to the quadruple figure which was revealed to Ezekiel and St. John by visions, composed of a man, an ox, a lion, and an eagle, facing respectively the south, west, east, and north, and signified the union of fire, light, and air, which were the usual similitudes under which the divine essence had been manifested to man.

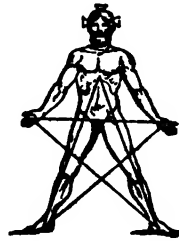
The Apocalypse abounds with types and symbols; but as this Lecture has already been extended to an unusual length, and having other matters of great importance to bring forward, I shall merely notice a few. By a crystal river was symbolized the pure doctrines of Christianity; trees of life, signified holy men; and frogs, impurity. By dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, were typified brutal, obscene, and unbelieving men, persecutors, and atheists; by the waters of life, eternal happiness.

From a careful perusal of the writings of the early Christian Fathers, we find a variety of characteristic signs used by the first professors of our faith. Did they wish to express adoration, their eyes and hands were lifted up to heaven.^o Contrition was symbolized by

^o It is worthy of remark that the Greek word for a man, *ανθρωπος*, appears to have been derived from *αναθρον.*, *sursum aspiciens*, looking upward. In Ovid's account of the creation, reference is made to this distinction of man from the beasts.

Pronaque cum spectant animalia cœtera terram

bending the knees ; gratitude by prostration ; humility by uncovering the head, or by kneeling down and spreading forth the hands ; piety by stretching out the right arm with the hand open : supplication by placing both hands on the heart ; liberality by throwing back the right hand ; innocence by washing the hands ; fear by casting the eyes to the ground ; and blessing by the imposition of hands. The sign of Faith was an upright posture of the body ; Hope, lifting up the hands ; and Charity rising from the knees. They adopted likewise the Pythagorean pentalpha, as the sign of salutation ; the five wounds of Christ being imagined to correspond with the five angular points of the figure. This was the portraiture. Again, the body of Christ, when extended on the Cross, was considered a symbol of the Jewish Temple ; his head, the Holy of Holies ; his breast, the altar ; his feet, the eastern portal ; and his stretched out hands, the north and south doors of the edifice. "In like manner the same figure, called by Bishop Kennet, the *pentangle of Solomon*, which was used as the banner of Antiochus Soter, was employed all over Asia in ancient times as a charm against witchcraft. It was anciently in use among the Jews, as a symbol betokening safety ; and to this day the English shepherd cuts it on the grass, or in the green sward, little thinking of its ancient composition and signification ; the entire figure representing the Greek characters *vyeas* health."¹⁰



These tokens are curious, and the Free and Accepted Mason will derive much gratification from finding that the same observances which he has been taught to esteem, as being the conservators of great symbolical

Oe homini sublime dedit ; celumque tueri
Jussit et erectus ad sidera tollere vultus.

And our own Young has deduced from man's upright form a lesson of devotion.

Nature no such hard task enjoins ; she gave
A make to man directive of his thought ;
A make set upright, pointing to the stars ;
As who should say—read thy chief lesson there.

¹⁰ *Cruoiana* p. 285.

truths and important moral references, were employed by the early teachers of our most holy faith to embody and express, with significancy and truth, the internal feelings and emotions of the heart.

It is wonderful to reflect on the facility with which the hieroglyphics of heathenism passed into Christianity. Mr. Hope¹¹ has furnished a lucid view of the subject, which may not be inappropriately quoted at the conclusion of this Lecture, although I must admit that, in some particulars, the comparison is strained. "Among the first Christians, the emblems of heathen deities or worship, rendered allusive to the parables of our Saviour, or the points of his doctrine, from being odious and profane, became suddenly objects of respect and veneration. Thus the vine, the genii sporting among its tendrils, and the various processes of converting its fruit into the most universal of beverages, all belonging, among the heathens, to the rites of Bacchus, were by the first Christians rendered symbolical of the labours in the vineyard of the faith; or, perhaps, the cup of wine which our Saviour, at the last supper, presented to his disciples as the type of his own blood, and were thence introduced in the edifices and tombs of Christians, as we see in numberless early Christian monuments, which not only deceived the Pagans, who knew not the subterfuge, but the later Christians also, who had again forgotten it, and who have mistaken most of these works for heathen relics. As the vine of Bacchus furnished the emblem for the wine, so did the ear of corn of Ceres furnish that for the bread, which, on the eve of his crucifixion, our Saviour divided among his disciples.

The palm branch, which, among heathens, denoted worldly victories, was made among Christians to mark the triumphs of the cross, and was wrested from the hands of heathen gods to be placed in those of a saint or martyr. Venus' dove became the Holy Ghost; Diana's stag, the Christian soul thirsting for the living waters; Juno's peacock, under the name of the phoenix, that soul after the resurrection. One evangelist was gifted with Jupiter's eagle; another with Cybele's lion; and winged genii and cupids became angels and cherubs.

¹¹ Archit. p. 180.

Even the sphinx, the griffin, and the chimera of mythology, were by the Christians adopted as having the same power of warding off evil spirits and fascination which was supposed to belong to the head of the Gorgon. The holy image of the cross itself was disguised in the semblance of an insignificant ornament. At Lavinia, in the posterior pediment of that small edifice called the Temple of Chiturnus, we see that cross composed of acanthus leaves, so blended among the surrounding scrolls of vine and poppy as to have escaped the eye of later and less sharp-sighted Christians. Afterwards, a more distinctly formed cross, covered with gems, was used as the emblem of the Christian faith; and it was not till the sixth century that the body of Christ was exhibited on it; nor was it till the council was held at Constantinople, in 692, that the superseding of allegory by actual representation was positively enjoined.

To the insignia borrowed from polytheism, the Christians still added others, useful in allaying the wrath which more undisguised representations would have raised. The lamb was made to designate the meek and faithful Christian; twelve such, in regular procession, represented the Apostles; and a thirteenth, more exalted than the rest, and adorned by a nimbus, was our Saviour. As the Greek word for a fish, ἰχθῦς contained the initials of Ἰεσοῦς Χριστὸς Θεοῦ Υἱὸς ὁ Σωτῆρ, even the inhabitants of the deep were made to represent Christ; and the rough outline of the fish, formed of two curves, meeting in a point at their extremities, was made to enclose, under the name *vesica piscis*, the figure of our Saviour in his glorified state, or of the Madona, or of the patron saint; and displayed in the pediments, or over the porches of churches, or in the seats of bishops, as objects destined to call forth the recollection of these holy personages."

In the above illustrations, the well-instructed Mason will find many things which he has already learned in the several Degrees of his Order; for the great union of Speculative and Operative Masonry at the building of the Temple introduced a series of Jewish symbols, which will for ever remain to dignify and adorn the science. The architectural emblems of the First Degree may be rather considered of Sidonian extraction, as they emanate

almost entirely from Operative Masonry ; but though they appear to the uninitiated as mere instruments of manual labour, yet, as they embody a mass of moral reference, we consider them to be jewels of inestimable value. And are they not so ? How did Solomon inculcate industry ? Go to the ant, said he. If, in like manner, we desire to teach morality and justice, what better reference can we have than to the Master's jewel ? If equality, that attribute of the Deity,

Who sees with equal eye as God of all,
A hero perish or a sparrow fall ;

we point to that of the Senior Warden ; of integrity, to that of the Junior Warden ; and each reads the Mason a lecture, which is highly calculated to make him a wiser and a better man. What can be more beautiful or more significant than the Immovable Jewels ? Even the simple working tools of an Entered Apprentice embody the wisdom and utility which alone would enhance the practice of virtue, and enrich the mind with precepts of inestimable value.

Do we pass on to the Second and Third Degrees ; the symbolical interpretation of each Floor Cloth increases in interest as we gradually advance through the field of corn by the river side,¹² past the enriched pillars of the temple to the awful Sanctum Sanctorum, where ethereal Light, the essence and perfection of Freemasonry, enthroned between the Cherubim of the Mercy Seat, shall reign for ever and ever.

¹² Hutchinson has ventured a curious opinion respecting the above symbol, which I do not think has been adopted by any other writer. Being one of the attributes of Ceres, he is rather inclined to refer it to the spurious than the true Free Masonry. "The application which is made of the word Sibboleth amongst Masons is a testimony of their retaining their original vow unimfringed, and their first faith with the Brotherhood uncorrupted. And to render their words and phrases more abstruse and obscure, they selected such as by acceptance in the Scriptures, or otherwise, might puzzle the ignorant by a double implication. Thus Sibboleth, should we have adopted the Eleusinian mysteries, would answer, as an avowal of our profession ; the same implying *ears of corn*. But it has its etymology or derivation from the following compounds in the Greek language, as it is adopted by Masons, viz. : *σιβο colo* ; and *λιθον lapis* : so *Σιβολιθον* Sibbolithon. *colo Lapidem*, implies that they retain and keep inviolate their obligations as the *Juramentum per Jovem Lapidem*, the most obligatory oath held amongst the heathen."—Hutch. *Spirit of Masonry*. Ed. 1775. p. 181.

LECTURE VIII.

ENQUIRY WHETHER THE UNION OF SPECULATIVE AND
OPERATIVE MASONRY WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT THE
BUILDING OF KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

A kingly pile sublime.
For this exhausted mines
Supplied the golden store;
For this the central caverns gave their gems;
For this the woodman's axe
Open'd the cedar forest to the sun;
The silkworm of the East
Spun her sepulchral egg. *Southey.*

THE chain of social relations is constituted on such a just and equitable principle of mutual dependency and mutual aid, that if a single link be broken, a sense of disorganization is felt from the highest down to the most inferior class in the community. Precisely thus it is in the system of Freemasonry which we profess. Taken collectively as a speculative and operative science, it is the pride of human institutions. Separate these component parts, and it becomes meagre, useless, and void of meaning. No person who has been initiated into Freemasonry can have paid the slightest attention to its principles without discovering that it is composed of two parts—morality and science. And these are interwoven with such delicacy and art, that every scientific illustration conveys some moral truth, or points, with unerring certainty, to the Great Architect of the Universe, as the divine source of all knowledge, and the sole object of human adoration. When the rich treasures of masonic lore are unfolded, the heart is improved by its moral disquisitions, and the affections tempered into soberness and brotherly love. And if historic records of the science be investigated, we shall find, in the

example of our ancient brethren, many instances of lofty virtue and scientific excellence which are worthy of imitation. The union of Speculative and Operative Masonry, by which our sublime science was modelled into its present form, is an event which we hail with pleasure, and reflect on with admiration. It took place at the building of King Solomon's Temple, which hence constitutes one of the most important occurrences in the history of Freemasonry, and contributes its aid towards hallowing the floor of a Mason's Lodge. The subject is, therefore, of sufficient interest to demand the cool and impartial consideration of every brother who wishes to understand the great principles of the science into which he has been initiated.

In this Lecture, therefore, I will endeavour to disentangle the subject from some of its difficulties, and to explain the particular circumstances which produced the union of these two branches of our science, in an intelligible and, I trust, satisfactory manner. For this purpose I shall take a brief view of Operative Masonry as it passed through the descendants of those primitive people who had renounced the pure worship of the Creator, and practised the Spurious Freemasonry, which was of human invention.

It may not, perhaps, be necessary to recall to your recollection the fact, that pure or Speculative Masonry was conveyed, along with the true religion, by the posterity—or, at least, by a portion of the posterity—of Shem and Japheth; while the arts and sciences attached to Operative Masonry were cultivated with triumphant success by the rest of the world. Before the time when temples were furnished with roofs, architecture had effected a considerable degree of refinement, which was displayed in the altars, pavements, and appendages to places of religious worship. Recent researches in Egypt have produced a series of interesting facts which prove the antiquity of architecture amongst its early inhabitants. From Wilkinson's *Materia Hieroglyphica*, we learn, that before the building of King Solomon's Temple, the Temple of Ammon was erected, and embellished by a succession of Egyptian Princes. Its original founder is unknown, but Thotmos III. 1367, A. A. C. added sculptures, colonnades, and obelisks. Amon-me-ameneto built

a propylon and an avenue of sphinxes; and Ramses III. added a side temple, and enriched its walls with many sculptures. This was the monarch whose daughter was married to King Solomon. The great temple at Ypsambul, with its gigantic statues and rich ornaments, was erected by Amon-me-Ramses, 160 years before the Temple at Jerusalem. Egyptian architecture, in its palmy state, was so sublime, that modern writers are struck with astonishment and awe at contemplating its vast remains. Denon says: "With the Egyptians the idea of the immortality of God is presented in the eternity of his temples. I have not words to express my feelings as I stood beneath the portico of Tentyra, and thought upon that nation of men who were capable of conceiving, executing, decorating, and enriching this edifice with every thing that could speak to the eye and to the soul." Champollion exclaims: "Imagination sinks abashed at the foot of the 140 columns of the hypostyle hall of Carnac or Ammon." To give some idea of the vastness of this latter temple, it may only be necessary to state, that each of these 140 columns was of the same diameter, and not much inferior in altitude, to the London monument on Fish Street Hill. What an immense idea must we form of the genius, as well as of the population and resources, of a country which was capable of erecting such stupendous buildings?

In the catalogue of expert architects of antiquity, the Tyrians will occupy a high and conspicuous place. Their ancestors had been masters of Egypt for more than two centuries; and when driven forth 700 years before the period to which I now desire to call your attention, viz., the era of King Solomon, carried with them the learning and talent for which that nation was so justly celebrated. And the posterity of these architects, living in constant communication with Egypt, were further improved by studying the great examples which the temples and monuments of that people exhibited, and which were unequalled in any other part of the globe.

—Art thrives most
Where Commerce has enriched the busy coast.
He catches all improvements in his flight,
Spreads foreign wonders in his country's sight;
Imports what others have invented well,
And stirs his own to match them or excel. *Cooper.*

Their fame was so celebrated, that every thing which displayed superior taste or elegance, not only in the erection of splendid buildings, but in ornamented glass, working of metals, fine linen, or rich colours, was, by universal consent, distinguished by the epithet of Sidonian.¹ Two hundred years before the building of the Temple, the city of Tyre was erected "by a body of Sidonian masons from Gabala, under their Grand Master, and proper princes or directors, who finished the lofty buildings of the city, with its strong walls and aqueducts, in a manner which greatly conduced to the honour and renown of those who planned and conducted this grand design."²

Here, then, we have a specimen of the skill displayed by the early Tyrian architects. Their city, though perhaps in its infancy, of no considerable magnitude, contained in its magnificent columns, porticos, and palaces,³ the germ of scientific knowledge. But it was a body without a soul. It wanted the invigorating impulse which can only be supplied by a full revelation of the Omnipresent Deity. This vivifying principle was inherent in Speculative Masonry. And when Operative Architecture was animated by this pure spirit, it produced a building which was the admiration and wonder of the ancient world; and for richness and glory has not been exceeded, even in the bright era of science which succeeded the invention of printing, when all the knowledge and experience of former times became accessible to every enquirer. "Religion," says a modern writer, "thus being the parent of architecture—and a style, a symbol, device, or emblem, appropriated at first to religion and to nothing else—its object is to produce a devout abstraction in the spectator. The effect is heightened by its antiquity, and a certain mystery veiling it. It follows, then, that all styles of architecture are hieroglyphics upon a large scale, exhibiting to the heedful eye, forms of worship widely differing from each other; and proving, that in almost every religion with which we are acquainted, the form of the temple was the *hierogram* of its god, or of the peculiar opinions of its votaries."⁴

¹ Strabo. l. 16.

² Noorth. Const. p. 19.

³ Mevand. ap. Jos. Ant. Jud. l. viii. c. 2. ⁴ Bardwell's Temples, p. 60.

Hastening to the time of the monarchy in Israel, we find Hiram, King of Tyre, much celebrated for his architectural knowledge. He spread out the city to the temple of Jupiter, by adding many magnificent buildings, constructed of immense blocks of stone united with cement of the same colour;⁵ amongst which were two new temples, one of which was consecrated to Hercules, and the other to Astarte, the queen of heaven. And the temple of Hercules soon became a central point, round which all the Phenician nations assembled to celebrate the rites of worship, as the Jews were commanded to do at Jerusalem, and the pugnacious States of Greece at the temple of Jupiter Olympus.

The Spurious Freemasonry of the Tyrians was called the Mysteries of Thammuz. It was celebrated by Hiram with all the pomp and solemnity which characterized these institutions in any part of the world. And while the Tyrians practised Operative Masonry as a science from which they derived both pleasure and profit, their near neighbours were engaged in the beauteous celebrations of Speculative Masonry, under the superintendence of their Grand Master, David, King of Israel.⁶ A league of the strictest amity and brotherly love subsisted between these celebrated men, as the representatives and Grand Masters of the two branches or divisions of Freemasonry. Nearly three thousand years had elapsed since they were rent asunder by the violation of Brotherly love in the first fratricide; and they were soon to be reunited for another period of equal longitude. Passing events hastened the accomplishment of an union so pregnant with beneficial consequences to all posterity. Let us, then, consider the proximate causes by which this great design was accomplished.

When David found his flourishing kingdom in a state

⁵ Alex. Mag. l. 2.

⁶ "In the first ages of the world, between the Jews and the Phenicians, there happened a great disagreement in maintaining of interests, rites, and ceremonies; but after some debate between them, the Jews taking a fancy to the Phenician worship, the Phenicians answered their kindness by affecting their mysterious doctrines and ceremonies; and so they exchanged the one for the other. The Jews sent their traditions, laws, and mysteries, in lieu of which was returned, a set method of idolatry. This went on from the time of the Judges; yet grew not up to its mature and full perfection till Solomon's time." (Samuel. Brit. p. 73.)

of profound peace; he had leisure to reflect on the impropriety, and, as he humbly thought, the sinfulness of dwelling in a princely palace, while the Ark of God, and the sacred symbols of his majesty, were deposited in a fragile and insecure tabernacle. Animated by divine wisdom,

Beneath whose clear discerning eye
The visionary shadows fly,
Of folly's painted show ;
He saw through every fair disguise,
That all but virtue's solid joys
Is vanity and woe.

Carter.

And impressed with the pious principle that the most effectual method of securing God's favour was by providing and maintaining a national Temple for his worship, he conceived the magnificent design of erecting a building to the honour of God which should eclipse all the temples then existing in the world. The idea was sublime, but its execution was not permitted. The man after God's own heart devoutly bowed to the decision, and contented himself with procuring plans from the architects of Tyre, and collecting materials for the work, in perfect acquiescence with the divine promise that it should be completed by the wisest and most accomplished of his children. This assurance animated his zeal ; and with prodigious labour and expense he heaped together vast treasures of gold and silver, wood and stone ; which after his death were still more extensively increased by Solomon his son, and successor to the throne. Soon, however, this wise king became conscious, from an examination of the plans left to him by his father, that the work was on too extensive a scale to be executed by his own unaided resources ; and, therefore, he made that famous application to the Grand Master of Operative Masonry which is recorded in the books of Kings and Chronicles.

This application constitutes an era of great importance in the annals of both Speculative and Operative Masonry. The critical moment, which was to determine whether they should remain forever separate, was at hand. Various causes contributed to accelerate their union ; and the embassy of Solomon to Hiram, his father's friend, was the immediate agent of its triumphant completion.

The children of Israel, in every age from their miraculous deliverance out of captivity, had been inordinately attached to the subtilties of Egyptian Freemasonry. St. Chrysostom has recorded that they entertained an increasing fondness for the fascinating splendours of this spurious system. And it could scarcely be otherwise. Man is by nature prone to superstition—fond of prodigies and tales of wild adventure. Traditions of the wonders contained in the mysteries of Thammuz, descended from father to son; augmented, as unguarded traditions always are, by exaggerated statements and fabulous narrations, which absorbed the attention of the Israelitish youth, and excited the voluptuous desire to participate in imaginary pleasures that were denied by the practice of their own religion. The means of gratification were at hand. The Tyrians held their Lodges periodically, in which the Spurious Freemasonry was celebrated in all its imposing splendour. The beautiful temples and places of initiation were thrown open to the enlightened Épopts. And we need scarcely wonder that they were highly attractive. In fact, nothing could resist the influence produced by the mysterious rites of these splendid apartments, which the architectural taste and genius of that people had furnished and decorated with every requisite which might give effect to the ceremonies. The people of the Lord were seduced by the pompous rites and magnificent festivals of Tyre, and longed to unite their voices in the fascinating harmony which chanted the praises and recounted the presumed virtues of fictitious deities. This propensity was not unobserved by him who seeth all things, and knoweth the very thoughts and intents of the heart. He saw—he pitied human weakness—and graciously resolved to wean his people from these allurements. For the purpose, therefore, of inducing them to adhere to their own worship in preference to the idolatries which accompanied the imperfect system practised at Tyre, he permitted a gorgeous temple to be erected for their use, which excelled, beyond all comparison, every existing edifice in riches and glory.

It is clear that there was a familiar intercourse between the Israelites and the Tyrians, which was facilitated by the use of a common language; for the Punic tongue, according to Dr. Pritchard, was nearly pure Phœnician or

Hebrew.⁷ This, indeed, was a necessary preliminary, without which, no benefits of any importance could have been realized. And it may be presumed that the Light was permitted to illuminate this branch of Spurious Freemasonry, with a greater degree of brilliancy than was conveyed to those which were removed to a greater distance from its source. The ancestors of these Tyrians, when they ruled in Egypt, worshipped the true God, and practised the true Freemasonry; neither had they much degenerated in the time of Abraham; as is evidenced in the history of Abimelech. A portion, therefore, of its benignant spirit might still remain to hallow the league between David and Hiram. Is it probable, then, that any of the Israelites were actually initiated into the Tyrian Freemasonry? It is probable; not only from the above reasoning, but from the fact that they were members of the Lodges of Operative Masonry; and the more permanent and endearing connections of husband and wife, parent and child, were common amongst them; and the most expert architect and designer that the world ever beheld, sprang from such an union.

From these united causes Hiram was induced to return an answer to Solomon's communication, which contained the language of amity and esteem. He agreed to extend the fraternal bond of that charity and brotherly love which was common to both the true and Spurious Freemasonry, by furnishing cedars and other timber from the forest of Lebanon for the erection of a temple to the living God; and providing the most expert architects in his dominions for its construction; on the simple condition of receiving certain supplies of provisions in exchange. And he performed his contract with princely munificence and masonic candour.

But even this would have been insufficient to produce any satisfactory result, without the presence of a Master mind to animate and direct the proceedings. And the King of Tyre furnished this Master mind in the person of his chief architect Hiram Abiff, by whom the reunion of Speculative and Operative Masonry was to be consummated. Having been born and educated in Tyre, he had

⁷ See Bochart's *Geog. Sac.* p. 800, and also Conybeare's *Theological Lectures*. The Tyrian language was indeed a dialect of the Hebrew.

received initiation from the priests of that people; and it is highly probable that he had risen to the rank of an Hierophant or Grand Master of the Spurious Freemasonry. But his mother was an Israelite, and it is scarcely credible that his great and aspiring genius would be contented with any thing less than a perfect knowledge of all the rites and ceremonies attached to the Jewish religion as well as those of his own country; or that he would remain blind to the superior advantages which the true Freemasonry presented. In a word, he was inspired by Jehovah to distinguish between good and evil—right and wrong.

—him within a finer mould
 She wrought, and tempered with a purer flame.
 To him the Sire Omnipotent unfolds
 The world's harmonious volume, there to read
 The transcript of himself. *Alenside.*

And what was the fruit of this knowledge? An earnest desire to perform the will, and to promote the glory of God. He soon acquired the influence of talent with the Grand Masters; and, by a judicious exercise of prudence and zeal, he induced them to unite the essentials of both systems, viz., their morality, brotherly love, and science, and to constitute one Grand Lodge in which these principles should form the bond of union. This Grand Lodge was the main spring that moved and directed the vast machinery which was put in motion to construct that magnificent edifice; and Hiram Abiff was the animus which directed every movement. Both sacred and profane records fully prove that this curious artist justly merited the honourable appellation of Great, whether we consider him in his moral or scientific character. As an architect none could ever compete with him, not even Aholiab and Bezaleel, though inspired from on high. As an embroiderer he stood unrivalled; as a sculptor antiquity can produce no parallel; and as a mechanic he outshone all his predecessors. "He was the most accomplished designer and operator upon earth," says Anderson, "whose abilities were not confined to building only, but extended to all kinds of work, whether in gold, silver, brass, or iron; whether in linen, tapestry, or embroidery; whether considered as an architect, statuary, founder or designer, he equally excelled. From his designs, and

under his direction, all the rich and splendid furniture of the temple, and its several appendages, were begun, carried on, and finished.*

Every preliminary being at length arranged, Hiram Abiff proceeded to execute his high commission. He formed Lodges of Master Masons, Fellow Crafts, and Entered Apprentices; each class under its Grand Lodge of Excellent or Superexcellent Masters. Numbers of the Israelitish people were admitted into the inferior degrees; while their chiefs and princes were exalted to the highest honours of the Craft. There are extant amongst Masons many remarkable traditions respecting the formation and management of these Lodges, in each degree of the united system, both in the quarries, the forest, and at Jerusalem; with the mode of working, and the amount of wages. A brief detail of the plans which were used on this great occasion may be interesting to some, and acceptable to all.

First, there was one supreme Grand Lodge, in which Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty were personified in the three Grand Masters—S K I—H K T—H A B. No other persons were permitted to share in the knowledge of those vast designs which formed the subjects of consultation with the illustrious Three. They alone were in possession of the true secrets of a Master Mason; and when the foundations of the Temple were laid, they placed these secrets in a sure and safe depository, that if accident or the decrees of heaven should throw over them the shade of temporary oblivion, they might still, at some future period, reappear as guides and beacons to posterity. This was called the Sacred Lodge. It was held in a crypt beneath the spot where the Sanctum Sanctorum, or Holy of Holies, was placed in the bowels of Mount Moriah.^b Of this Lodge it was that Solomon our supreme Grand Master said: "Wisdom hath builded her house; she hath hewn out her seven pillars."^c And it was by the exer-

* Neorth. Const. p. 33.

^b Maundrell says that "in a garden lying at the foot of Mount Moriah, he was shewn several large vaults, running at least fifty yards under ground. They were built in two aisles, arched at the top with huge firm stone, and sustained with tall pillars, consisting each of one single stone, two yards in diameter. This might possibly be some work made to enlarge the area of the temple; for Josephus describes something like it."

^c Prov. ix. 1.

cise of the Wisdom¹¹ which was inherent in him, and of which he was the personification as the first Great Pillar of the Grand Lodge, that he preserved the secrets of a Master Mason from utter extinction.

With this Grand Lodge originated the union of Speculative and Operative Masonry; an union which produced the temple at Jerusalem, which was so celebrated throughout the ancient world. Speculative Masonry was represented by Wisdom, in the person of king Solomon; and Operative Masonry by Strength in the person of king Hiram; while Hiram Abiff, or Beauty, was the personification of both united. With these elements a system was constructed which still exists in all its purity and elegance; and will contribute blessings to the human race till time shall be no more. It is presumed that Solomon, who married an Egyptian Princess,¹² had been initiated into the Spurious Freemasonry of that people; and had thus acquired a knowledge of the mysterious principles of their architecture; and of the system of symbolical machinery which distinguished all the Eastern institutions. This knowledge would render the above union more easy of accomplishment; and hence Operative Masonry being endued with all the advantages derivable

¹¹ In speaking of the Wisdom of our Grand Master, a decisive testimony of which is contained in our Sacred Books, (Kings iii. 12.—2 Chron. i. 11, 12.) Josephus notices some curious instances of the superstitions which had been engrafted thereon in subsequent ages. "These extraordinary gifts were not bestowed upon Solomon in vain; for he composed charms and incantations for expelling the diseases of the human body. He left several manuscript forms of conjuration, by means of which people obtained an effectual relief from evil spirits, which never returned; and his directions for removing complaints of this nature are to this time much practised by the people of our nation. I was present when a countryman of mine, named Eleazar, dispossessed divers persons before Vespasian, his sons, and several officers and soldiers. A ring, under the seal of which a certain root was conveyed, was applied to the nostrils, and it being smelt to by the demoniac, the evil spirit was instantly drawn out by the nose. In this operation the man was thrown down by the spirit. Eleazar repeated charms and incantations invented by Solomon, whose name he frequently introduced, and adjured the devil to trouble the party no more. After this, Eleazar placed a vessel of water near a man who was possessed, and adjured the devil, upon quitting the person, to overturn it, which was accordingly done. This was an incontrovertible testimony of the wisdom of Solomon." (Ant. Jud. b. viii. c. 2.)

¹² This union was not forbidden in the Jewish law. (Deut. xxiii. 7.) The Jews were allowed to marry with any nation that practised the rite of circumcision.

from Light, Charity, and Morality, was elevated into a science capable of forming vast designs, and of astonishing mankind by the perfection and rapidity of their execution.

Virtue alone outbuilds the pyramids;
Her monuments shall last, when Egypt's fall.

Young.

There was also a subordinate Grand Lodge of Operative Masons, in which Beauty presided in the person of Hiram Abiff, and his Wardens were the noble princes Tito Harodim and Adoniram; who were placed at the head of the levies from Jerusalem. The Masters of the twelve tribes were appointed by King Solomon to superintend the work.

Joabert presided over the tribe of Judah.

Stolkyn	"	"	Benjamin.
Terry	"	"	Simeon.
Morphey	"	"	Ephraim.
Alcuber	"	"	Manasseh.
Dorson	"	"	Zebulun.
Kerim	"	"	Dan.
Berthemar	"	"	Asher.
Tito	"	"	Naphtali.
Terbal	"	"	Reuben.
Benachard	"	"	Issachar.
Tabar	"	"	Gad.

These twelve presidents rendered a daily account of their respective tribes, and received the power of punishment and reward according to desert. They were also the medium for distributing the workmen's wages. The apprentices, fellow crafts, and masters, were partitioned into Lodges, and the utmost regularity was preserved throughout the whole undertaking. In the quarries of Tyre were two Lodges of Superexcellent Masters, as Supervisors of the work; over which Tito Zadok, the High Priest, presided: these were the Harodim. There were also six Lodges of Excellent Masters; eight Grand Architects, and sixteen Architects—men of superior talent, who had been selected for their proficiency in the sciences, and placed as superintendents over the workmen. This was a necessary provision; for thus they were enabled to regulate the proceedings, and to preserve order and arrangement in the several departments which were

assigned to them. There were three classes of Masters in thirty-six Lodges, called the Menatzchim; and 700 Lodges of Ghiblim, or Operative Fellow Crafts, under Hiram Abiff, their Grand Master. The number of persons employed in every department amounted to 113,600, besides 70,000 labourers.¹³ In the forest of Lebanon the same classes were arranged, although varying in numbers, with the addition of 10,000 Entered Apprentices, in 100 Lodges; over which Adoniram was constituted Grand Master.¹⁴ It will be observed that each of the above degrees had its distinguishing signs, words, and tokens; without which confusion and disorder could scarcely have been prevented. The Apprentices messed by *seven* in a company, and the Fellow Crafts by *five*. The Masters and Wardens of all these Lodges were men of enlightened minds and matured understandings, well skilled in geometry and the rules of proportion. They trained their respective brethren and fellows to the practice of blending moral virtue with the pursuits of science; and inculcated Charity or Brotherly Love as the distinguishing feature of their profession. Nor were the Cardinal and Theological Virtues omitted in their dispositions. What were the results of this moral and scientific training? Why, it produced an inviolate adherence to order, and a spirit of Fraternal union, which gave energy and permanence to the institution; and enabled it to survive the wreck of mighty empires, and even to resist the destroying hand of time.

Hence, 'midst the ruins of three thousand years,
Unhurt, unchang'd, Freemasonry appears.
Her towers and monuments may fade away,
Her truth and social love shall ne'er decay.

Woods.

Thus was constituted the united system of Speculative and Operative Masonry, a system which, in all ages, has

¹³ Jos. Ant. Jud. b. viii. c. 2.

¹⁴ There may appear a discrepancy in this estimate of numbers. Some think that the only actual Freemasons who were present at this building were the 3,300 overseers mentioned, 1 Kings v. 160, added to the 300 who were called Ghiblinites, and were in fact masters over the rest. This account, therefore, gives 300 Masters, 15,000 Fellow Crafts, and 2100 Entered Apprentices in 300 Lodges. But I am inclined to think that the statement in the text is more in unison with ancient masonic belief.

refined the feelings, and purified the heart, which has been productive of human happiness, and led the enquiring brother from the works of nature up to nature's God.

When a sufficient quantity of stone and timber had been provided, the brethren were assembled in the extensive plains between Succoth and Zarthan, where the whole materials were arranged, squared, and carved; having been first carefully measured under the architect's own eye, and the shape delineated by dark lines; each Lodge having its particular mark and number, that specimens of imperfect workmanship might be known and submitted to general reprobation. These preliminaries being completed, the workmen were at length conducted to the summit of Mount Moriah; and with materials thus scientifically prepared, the building was completed without the assistance of axe, hammer, or metal tool; that might might be heard amongst the workmen of Zion but harmony and peace.

No workman's steel, no pondrous axe rung,
Like some tall palm the noiseless fabric sprung.

Heber.

There appears to have been a peculiar idea of pollution in the use of iron tools about the holy structure of a temple. In the directions given by the Almighty to Moses from Mount Sinai, respecting the construction of the tabernacle, and more particularly about the altar, the use of metal tools is prohibited in the strongest terms.¹⁵ And David, in the prospect of the temple's desecration by unsanctified hands, complains,¹⁶ as the greatest aggravation of insult which the adversary could offer, that the carved work thereof was broken down with axes and hammers.

But while specimens of imperfect labour were marked with censure, superior merit was rewarded by a public testimony of approbation. This formed a passport to favour and employment in other countries when the temple at Jerusalem was finished. Nothing could have a stronger tendency to rouse dormant talent, or to excite virtuous emulation, than the system of reward which was adopted on this occasion. A number of gold medals

¹⁵ Exod. xx. 25.

¹⁶ Ps. lxxiv. 6.

were provided, of the size of a Shekel, with the word **FREEM** impressed on both sides. These were presented to deserving men, and worn by them as proud trophies of merit. And they constituted an undeniable certificate of qualification for great undertakings which required the united aid of genius, learning, and experience.

During the preparation, according to the legends of Freemasonry, the workmen's wages were paid daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly, in their respective Lodges; and when the temple was nearly completed, they were paid in the Middle Chamber. This celebrated apartment was accessible by a winding staircase of stone; the foot of which was guarded by the Junior Warden, and the summit by the Senior Warden of a Fellow Crafts' Lodge. And how were these wages paid? Without fear or scruple, says the legend, because their employers were entitled to their unlimited confidence. And if an unauthorised hand was stretched out to receive the remuneration of a Craftsman, punishment was summary and certain, so strictly were the arrangements of discipline enforced. The coin in which they were paid was a Shekel of silver, which weighed about half an ounce, and was of the value of two shillings and sixpence of our present currency.



It bore on one side a pot of manna, circumscribed **SHEKEL OF ISRAEL**, and on the reverse, the budded rod of Aaron, and the legend **JERUSALEM THE HOLY**.¹⁷ The

¹⁷ "Some of these Shekels were in the possession of Maimonides, and the Rabbi Azarias among the Jews, and of Morinas, Montanus, Villipandus, and others among the Christians. The mark on one side is supposed to have been Aaron's miraculous rod budding for the almonds; and on the other, the pot of manna. The letters over this last, not being

amount paid to each individual was equal to the number of his Degree squared. Thus the Apprentices received one Shekel per day. Those who had attained the second or Fellow Craft's Degree were paid $2 \times 2 = 4$ Shekels. The third Degree, 9 Shekels. And advancing in the same graduated scale to the highest, or Superexcellent Degree, which was the ninth, each brother received $9 \times 9 = 81$ Shekels, or £10 2s. 6d. of our money. The aggregate amount of wages paid for this splendid edifice is said to have been nearly equal to £100,000,000 of our present money.

"The whole expense of this building," says Prideaux, "was so prodigious as gives reason to think that the talents, whereby the sum is reckoned, were another sort of talents of far less value than the Mosaic talents; for what is said to be given by David, and contributed by the princes towards the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, if valued by their talents, exceeded the value of £800,000,000 of our money, which was enough wherewith to have built all that temple of solid silver."¹⁸ How were these vast sums raised? Villipandus asserts—although I confess that his authority is not of much value—that David left behind him treasures, to the amount of £911,416,207; and we know that the princes of Israel presented a greater sum than David. In addition to these treasures, Solomon devoted the greater part of his immense riches to the same purpose. Every voyage to Ophir produced 450 talents,¹⁹ which amounts to £3,240,000 sterling of our present money.²⁰

plain enough, are variously conjectured to stand for the name of God, of Israel, David or Jerusalem; as for the inscriptions round the two sides, except a small variation of the character and orthography between those extant coins, they plainly answer to those in the modern Hebrew; on the one side, *Shekel Israel*;—and on the reverse, *Jerushalaim Hakadosha*." (Univ. Hist. vol. 2. p. 212.)

¹⁸ Prid. Con. vol. 1. p. 6.

¹⁹ 1 Chron. xxii. 14.

²⁰ Agathercides (p. 60.) tells us that "the Alileans and Cassandrians in the southern parts of Arabia had gold in that plenty amongst them, that they would give double the weight of gold for iron, triple its weight for brass, and ten times its weight for silver; and that in digging the earth they found it in gobbets of pure gold, which needed no refining, and that the least of them were as big as olive stones, but others much larger. No other author speaks of any other place in the world where it was ever found in the like plenty." (Prid. Con. vol. 1. p. 10.) The Dean further says, that the sum amassed towards building the temple by David exceeded all the specie now to be found on the face of the earth. (Ibid. vol. 2. p. 406.)

I flatter myself that sufficient evidence has been adduced to substantiate a fact, concerning which many intelligent Masons have confessed themselves to have been much bewildered. I dare not produce any internal proofs drawn from the construction of our machinery in corroboration of the above reasoning; but every brother who has seriously considered the mechanism of the Third Degree, will be enabled to furnish them for the satisfaction of his own mind. I could imagine some slight objections that might be urged; but they are of little importance when put in competition with the weight of evidence in favour of the view which I have here taken of the union of Speculative and Operative Masonry at this precise period. The Wisdom of Solomon—the Strength of Hiram—the Beauty of Hiram Abiff, all combine to render this interpretation at the least feasible; and where records are wanting, truth can only be obtained by collating and comparing historical facts which are certain and undisputed.

At the building of King Solomon's Temple we find Lodges—Signs and Tokens—and all the paraphernalia by which Secret Societies in all ages have been distinguished. Here were also gradations of rank, from the royal Grand Master, down to the lowest Entered Apprentice, and the Ish Sabbal. Lectures in Morals and Science were delivered by the Masters of Lodges, for the mental improvement of the brethren; and a series of regulations were promulgated for the preservation of order and decorum amongst such a vast concourse of workmen, which were enforced with the strictest severity of perfect discipline. These are symptoms of Freemasonry in its most palmy state; and whatever advantages we may possess from the progress of civilization, and the harmonizing effect of scientific arrangement, it is a question whether our Freemasonry is more perfect in its details, than was the system under the government of the Sacred Grand Lodge at Jerusalem. It was a pattern which we may profitably imitate; and doubts may exist whether, in our age of mental enlightenment, fewer instances of a departure from rectitude would be exhibited amongst ourselves, were we congregated to the number of nearly 200,000 men of all ranks and classes in society. So excellent were the arrangements, and so successful the results of the union of Speculative and Operative Masonry.

LECTURE IX.

THE DETAILS OF THIS FAMOUS EDIFICE CONSIDERED,
FOR THE PURPOSE OF SHEWING THAT THE ABOVE
UNION CONVEYED ESSENTIAL BENEFITS TO MANKIND.

Sound the full harmonious song ;
To Masonry divine the strain prolong ;
And first the grateful tribute bring
To the great, the sapient king ;
Who, inspired by power divine,
Made wisdom, strength, and beauty all combine
To frame, confirm, and deck the vast design.

Masonic Ode.

THE harmony and union which existed amongst the Masons who were employed to build the Temple at Jerusalem, has been eulogised both in sacred and profane history. This agreement arose from the judicious regulations which the wisdom of Solomon suggested for the government of the various Lodges spread over the plains of Zeredatha, and the forest of Lebanon ; and subsequently transferred to the holy mountain of Moriah. For "brotherly love and immutable fidelity," says Calcott, "presented themselves to his mind, as the most proper basis for an institution, whose aim and end should be to establish permanent unity among its members ; and to render them a society, who, while they enjoyed the most perfect felicity, would be of considerable utility to mankind. And being desirous to transmit it, under the ancient restrictions, as a blessing to future ages, Solomon decreed, that whenever they should assemble in their Lodges, to discourse upon and improve themselves in the arts and sciences, and whatever else should be deemed proper topics to increase their knowledge, they should likewise instruct each other in secrecy and prudence,

morality and good fellowship ; and for these purposes he established certain peculiar rules and customs to be invariably observed in their conversations, that their minds might be enriched by a perfect acquaintance with, and practice of, every moral, social, and religious duty ; lest, while they were so highly honoured by being employed in raising a temple to the Great Jehovah, they should neglect to secure to themselves a happy admittance into the celestial Lodge, of which the temple was only to be a type."

The method of preparing the materials of elegant structures remote from their intended site, so as to unite without any visible interstices, was an art which the Tyrian workmen derived from Egypt. The expert artists of that extraordinary country were famous for unique productions accomplished by this process. The great father of history has recorded the fact. He says: "The most celebrated of the ancient statuary, Telecles and Theodorus, the sons of Rhoecus, made for the Samians the image of the Pythian Apollo. And it is said that one-half of the image was executed in Samos by Telecles, and the other half at Ephesus by Theodorus ; and that both parts, when put together, agreed so well with each other, as to appear precisely as if they had been the work of one person ; and that this kind of workmanship was never practised by the Greeks, but was very common among the Egyptians ; for that with them it was not usual to judge of the symmetry of a figure by the sight of the whole, as with the Greeks ; but that when the stones were quarried and properly cut out, they then proceeded by proportion from the smallest to the greatest ; and dividing the whole fabric of the body into one and twenty parts and a quarter, they arranged the whole symmetry accordingly. And hence, when their artists consult with each other about the magnitude of any figure, although separated from each other, they still make the results agree so well, that this peculiarity of their practice excites the greatest astonishment. And that the image in Samos, according to this refinement of the Egyptians, being divided from the summit of the head and as far as the middle, is still perfectly consistent with itself, and in all parts alike."

The same description of masonry was used in the walls

of Byzantium, which were erected about the time when the Tyrians built Carthage, and long before the Temple of Solomon was designed. These walls, says Herodian, were composed of such immense blocks, so curiously squared, and artfully joined, as to appear like one entire stone.

The site of the Temple had been revealed to David by God himself, in answer to his fervent supplications;¹ and it was denominated "the Field of the Wood." On that consecrated spot Abraham proved his intuitive faith, by leading his only and well-beloved son Isaac a destined victim to the altar of his God. Here, on the floor of Araunah the Jebusite, David offered his mediatorial sacrifice, by which the plague was stayed. Here, also, the Almighty shewed to him the plan of that glorious Temple, which was afterwards completed by his illustrious son; and on that sacred spot God declared he would establish his most Holy Name.

Preparations were made for the foundation by forming vaulted passages and filling up vast hollows, to produce a level space of sufficient capacity and firmness to contain and support the intended building. There are many Rabbinical traditions afloat in the Mishna and Gemara, respecting the existence of a subterraneous communication between the Temple and the royal palace, which had been secretly constructed, as a private passage for the use of King Solomon and his successors. This is said to have been an avenue which led to a small vaulted chamber underneath the Sanctum Sanctorum. It was furnished with an altar and its appendages, calculated to promote a devout abstraction, holy thoughts, and pious feelings. In this place, it is presumed, the king spent much time in meditation and prayer, apart from the toils of government and the cares of the world. Here he found leisure to reflect on the attributes of the Deity, and the mercy and loving kindness which had exalted him to the summit of glory, and placed him at the head of all earthly sovereigns.

The existence of this private passage has been questioned. But vaults formed a necessary part of temple architecture in Egypt, at this early period. The

¹ Pa. cxxxii. 1—5.

pyramids and sphynxes were all furnished with arched vaults.² They contained, indeed, but one small apartment, accessible only by long, intricate, and contracted passages, except in the subterranean cavities, which were probably known to none but the priests and hierophants. These secret crypts communicated equally with a chamber in the adjoining sphynx, and with each other. They were used for the purpose of initiation into the Spurious Freemasonry. We have reason to believe that all the early public buildings contained subterraneous vaults, intended for the mysterious celebrations, or as receptacles for the preservation of such facts or doctrines as were considered improper to be publicly known.

Besides, vaults are mentioned by Josephus as existing beneath both the temple and the palace,³ and they were repeated by Herod on the re-construction of these edifices.⁴ It is probable, therefore, that there was some ground for the tradition; nor can we altogether reject the evidence which is contained in one of the Apocryphal books of our Scriptures. It is thus recorded as an undoubted fact, that when the desolation of the temple was about to be accomplished by Nebuchadnezzar, the priests furtively conveyed the sacred fire from the altar, and concealed it in a vault, where it remained till the re-edification of that sacred structure. And it was then revived by a process which Nehemiah dictated to the priests.⁵ Jeremiah the prophet, also, as it is recorded in the same book, hid the tabernacle, the ark, and the altar of incense, in a vault or cave, and closed up the place so securely, that it could not be discovered; but he predicted that these holy utensils should be found when, in God's good time, the restoration of Israel

² "Recent discoveries in Ethiopia have brought to light," says a writer on the Egyptian antiquities in the British Museum, "arches regularly constructed with the *keystone*. The same arch is also found in the vaulted roof of a small building or portico in the Egyptian style, which is attached to one of the sides of the largest pyramids at Assour. At Jebel Barkal, Mr. Waddington observed an arched roof in a portico attached to a pyramid." These pyramids are supposed to be of higher antiquity than the building of King Solomon's Temple.

³ Ant. Jud. b. viii. c. 2.

⁴ Ibid. b. xv. c. 14.

⁵ 2 Mac. i. 19—22.

should be accomplished.* A most extraordinary corroborating fact, if fact it be, is related by Philostorgius; and after him by Nicephorus, that, at the clearing of the foundations,⁷ when Julian the apostate set himself to re-build the temple, a stone was taken up that covered the mouth of a deep, four-square cave, cut out of the rock, into which one of the labourers being let down by a rope, found it full of water to the middle of the leg, and in the midst *a pillar reaching a little above the water, whereon lay a roll of book wrapped up in a fine linen cloth.* Being drawn up, the linen was observed to be fresh and undecayed, and the book being unfolded, was found, to the amazement both of Jews and Gentiles, to contain the first words of the Gospel of St. John, written in capital letters. **IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.** And Maundrell says, that "in a garden at the foot of Mount Moriah, on the south side, he was shewn several large vaults, annexed to the mountain, and running at least fifty yards under ground. They were built in two aisles, *arched at top with huge firm stone, and sustained with tall pillars,* consisting each of a single stone, and two yards in diameter."

Shall we, then, doubt, in the face of such credible authorities, that there did exist some secret passages in the foundations of the temple, which were accessible to few, and those only in the very highest rank of priests or prophets? May we not rather conclude that the wisdom of Solomon would induce him to construct a place for secret communings with his God; which would derive additional sanctity by its connection with that awful spot, consecrated by His immediate and perpetual presence? If this reasoning possess any force, we may suppose it to have been within the secret recesses of this holy apartment that his repentance was awakened, and his piety revived, after his melancholy apostacy;

* 2 Mac. ii. 5, 6, 7. See also a confirmation of this tradition in the *Elucidarium* ascribed to St. Austin. (c. 24.) But he says that they will be restored by the two translated ones, Enoch and Elijah. But the Rabbins (vid. Buxtorf, in 2 Mac. ii.) have a fancy that the ark had been previously hidden in Solomon's vault by Josiah; (2 Chron. xxiv. 3.) and that it shall not be found till the advent of their expected Messiah.

⁷ Philost. l. 7. c. 14. Niceph. l. 10. p. 76.

and when he composed that remarkable production which commences—"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity;"* and concludes—"Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment; with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."

The harmony of arrangement resulting from the union of Speculative and Operative Masonry, perfected by the deliberations of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, in the Sacred Lodge, was not without its beneficial results. For when the labours of the expert Craftsmen in the forest of Lebanon, the quarries of Tyre, and the plains of Zarthan, were tested at Jerusalem, each part fitted with such perfect exactness, that it was difficult to distinguish the joints. It did not require the use of either axe, hammer, or other metal tool, and the building appeared as though it had been formed out of a single block of highly polished marble. Hence the admiration of strangers was so strongly excited by its finished appearance, that they were inclined to consider it rather as a work of the Great Architect of the Universe, than an exertion of human ingenuity and skill. Without such a perfect disquisition as I have described, it would be impossible to conjecture how the Temple, complicated in its construction, and magnificent in its decorations, as it was, should have occupied such a very short period of time from the foundation to the cape stone. For, while this famous edifice was prepared for divine worship in little more than seven years, the Temple of Diana at Ephesus, inferior in point of splendour, is said to have occupied a period of 220 years in building. The cape stone was celebrated with masonic honours; and the Dedication stands forth in the records of antiquity, as a festival perfectly unexampled and alone. "Magnificent must have been the sight, to see the young king, clothed in royalty, officiating as priest before the immense altar, while the thousands of Levites and priests on the east side, habited in surplices, with harps, cymbals, and trumpets in their hands, led the eye to the beautiful Pillars flanking the doors of the temple, now thrown open, and displaying the interior brilliantly lighted up;

* *Eccles.* i. 2.

° *Ibid.* xii. 13, 14.

while the burnished gold of the floor, the ceiling, and the walls, with the precious gems with which they were enriched, reflecting the light on all sides, would completely overwhelm the imagination, were it not excited by the view of the embroidered veil, to consider the yet more awful glories of the Most Holy Place. And astounding must have been the din of the instruments of the four thousand Levites, led on by the priests with one hundred and twenty trumpets, directing the choruses of the immense congregation, as they chaunted the sublime compositions of the royal Psalmist in the grand intonations of the Hebrew language, like the "roaring of many waters."¹⁰

Josephus has given the following description of the Temple: "The foundation was sunk to an astonishing depth, and composed of stones of singular magnitude, and so hard a quality, as to resist the worm and the inclemency of the weather; and being closely mortised into the rock with great ingenuity, they formed a basis adequate to the support of the intended structure. The Temple was sixty cubits high,¹¹ and sixty cubits also in length; and the breadth was twenty cubits. Above this was another stage of equal dimensions. So that the height of the whole structure was one hundred and twenty cubits. The walls were composed entirely of white stone; and the front of the building was towards the east. The porch was twenty cubits in length, ten in breadth, and one hundred and twenty in height. Round the outward walls were erected thirty cells or small houses, communicating with each other, and forming galleries, and at the same time answering the purpose of buttresses, by supporting the walls. These cells were each five cubits square, and twenty cubits high. Over these were two other floors of the same proportion, and the uppermost of the cells were on a level with the lower story of the fabric. They were fastened together by large beams, so disposed as to make them appear of one piece, and as if they gave additional strength to the walls. Under the beams was a variety of carving, gilding, fretwork, and other curious ornaments. The walls and ceilings were lined with cedar,

¹⁰ Bardwell's Temples. p. 87.

¹¹ The cubit may be estimated at eighteen inches.

and the wainscots were embellished with a profusion of splendid ornaments of the purest gold. The fabric was composed of stones polished to the utmost degree of excellence, and put together with such ingenuity, that the smallest interstice was not to be perceived. The whole, in short, was so wonderfully executed, that it appeared to be the effect of Divine Providence, rather than of human art."¹²

Egypt was the great source of all eastern learning and knowledge. But its science was eclipsed and superseded by this famous structure; and for many years, if not for ever, it declined before the superior brightness of sacred architecture, resulting from the union of Speculative and Operative Masonry. The Egyptian temples were vast, striking, and sublime; but there were wanting in their construction the charms of symmetry, and the graces of chaste decoration, which rendered the Temple of Solomon so famous. Here was magnificence in its most gorgeous form; but it was a magnificence tempered by delicacy of design and accuracy of execution. Unity and proportion were displayed in all its parts, and a correct taste was never violated by the introduction of discordant members or inappropriate ornaments. There was not a solitary blot in the whole building—not a single deformity to abstract the attention from its beauties—all was replete with deep feeling; and the secret sympathies which elevated the soul from the temple to the Deity, operated in each member and in the whole. This singleness of purpose—this inimitable result of genius and taste united with consummate skill—it was that excited the admiration of foreign architects on their visits to this monument of WISDOM, STRENGTH, and BEAUTY, and the triumph of sacred architecture was perfect and complete.

This model of perfection was, indeed, a perfect gem. The scale on which it was planned was peculiarly adapted to its situation. When illuminated by the sun's rays, it shone brilliantly on the heights of Moriah, and seemed, at a distance, like a celestial palace composed of ivory inlaid with veins of precious metal. And the splendour of its appearance will fully justify the rapturous expressions of the Jews concerning its beauty and sublimity. It was

¹² Jos. Ant. Jud. b. viii. 2.

truly a work of art worthy of being beloved—a work which any nation or people would have regarded with pride and veneration.

I now proceed to offer a few remarks on some of the details. And first, on the two famous Pillars which stood at the entrance of the porch. In the absence of that sublime principle of vital religion which preserved a just idea of the nature and attributes of God, and the spirituality of his worship, the nations of the earth entertained an uniform veneration for upright pillars of stone. In the first ages of idolatry, the rites of divine worship were conducted without any idols, or visible representations of the deity. After the erection of Jacob's pillar at Bethel,¹³ the neighbouring nations set up rude stones,¹⁴ generally black or of a dark colour,¹⁵ to denote God's invisibility. These were termed Betulia, and served for objects of worship. To them succeeded, at a later period, rude attempts to imitate the human form, carved out of blocks of wood. And when the art of statuary was perfected, the most delicately executed images were erected, not only of wood and stone, but of brass, ivory, and the precious metals. These statues were possessed of a two-fold application; first, they were considered as symbols of God's presence; and secondly, as visible emblems of security and protection. And after the image had been adopted and solemnly consecrated as the tutelary deity of a particular city or country, the inhabitants thought themselves perfectly safe so long as they retained possession of the sacred image. And hence they dreaded no evil so much as the loss of this invaluable representation of the deity.

But previously to the building of Solomon's Temple, pillars had not fallen into disuse; they were erected in places where devotion was offered, and were sometimes considered as talismans for the preservation of the sacred edifice. Various were the forms which these pillars had assumed amongst the scattered tribes and people which migration had dispersed over the face of the globe. But at this period they had become cylindrical; and a superb specimen of the application of pillars in the construction of temples and palaces, had been exhibited by the Tyrian

¹³ Gen. xxviii. 18.

¹⁴ Euseb. prep. evan. l. i. Clem. Alex. Protrept.—Chrysost. Serm. 12.

¹⁵ Strabo. Geogr. l. 17.

Masons at Gaza, in the Temple of Dagon, which owed its stability to the support it received from two columns of great elegance and beauty.

Pillars or obelisks were often used to commemorate remarkable events in the private annals of nations. The wisdom of Solomon, therefore, induced him to construct a pair of commemorative pillars, and to place them at the entrance of the porch, for a reason which will shortly appear. He called their names Jachin and Boaz, which signified strength and erection; and their union, Stability. The right hand pillar was named after Jachin, the son of Simeon, and that on the left from Boaz, the great grandfather of David. Our traditions say that Hiram gave a name to one pillar, and Solomon to the other. Boaz referred to the Sun, because he rejoiceth as a *strong* man to run his course; and Jachin to the Moon, because it was predicted of Solomon, that in his kingdom, peace and righteousness should flourish so long as the sun and moon endure. Hence, as the kingdom was now permanently established, this wise and pious monarch designed these two pillars as a testimony of his firm conviction that it would continue in prosperity so long as his successors should perform the will and obey the commands of Him who delivered their ancestors from the miseries of Egyptian bondage.

These pillars were made of cast brass, and were the production of Hiram Abiff, who taxed his ingenuity in their construction and symbolical adornment. Their style, like that of the temple itself, was after Egyptian models, being of the usual proportion of five and a half diameters high. The basis was Wisdom, the shaft Strength, and the capital Beauty. Ancient tradition says, that the shafts were covered with astronomical and masonic figures, characters, and calculations; and the hollow space in the interior served as archives of Masonry, and to hold the constitutional records. Each had "a vase rising from the cylindrical shaft, ornamented with lotus flowers. The bottom of the vase was partly hidden by the flowers; the belly of it was overlaid with network, ornamented by seven wreaths—the Hebrew number of happiness."¹⁶ They were further adorned with chapiters of five cubits

¹⁶ Bardwell's Temples. p. 85.

in height; enriched with network, chains, lilies, and pomegranates; emblematical of unity, fortitude, peace, and plenty. They had a double row of the latter, each containing a hundred pomegranates; and on the summit were placed two spherical balls, to represent the earth and heavens, as symbols of the universality of Masonry. It is difficult, say the lectures, at this distance of time, to state the precise ornaments and combinations of these emblems. But our traditions give us to understand that the chapters respectively represented the whole system of creation, celestial and terrestrial. This conjecture is founded upon the symbolical reference of these ornaments; which, how descriptive soever they may be of the union, the strength, the peace, and plenty which the people of Israel enjoyed under the mild sway of that wisest and best of kings—are emblems of far more extensive signification. The network refers to the strong and beautiful texture of the universe. The chains denote the orbits which the planetary bodies describe round the sun, and their revolutions on their several axes. The opening flowers point out the mild irradiation of the fixed stars; and the pomegranate was invariably used throughout all antiquity to denote the secret power by which the works of nature were originated and matured.

These two sublime columns were further intended to commemorate the awful pillar of a cloud and a fire, by which the Divine Presence was exemplified, when he inflicted wrath on the Egyptian host, and gave freedom and salvation to the house of Jacob, by the destruction of Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea at a moment when the Israelites deemed themselves out of the reach of mercy. This was a noble instance of zeal and gratitude to the Disposer of all events, and worthy the wisdom of our illustrious Grand Master. He consulted equally the glory of God, and the benefit of his subjects, when he placed these remarkable obelisks in this conspicuous situation. The Israelites were thus furnished with an opportunity of recalling to their remembrance this great event in their history, whenever they entered into the house of God to worship. Thus their faith was strengthened, and their confidence increased in Jehovah their almighty deliverer.

These two noble pillars were of such vital importance

to the support and admiration of the temple, that at its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar, the Lord is represented by a magnificent figure, as standing in all his majesty upon the altar, and commanding his angel to strike the capitals, chapiters, or heads of these pillars, to ensure the ruin not only of the pillars and porch, or the temple itself, or even all Jerusalem, but of the entire nation and polity of the Jews. Hence, as the erection of these pillars is recorded in scripture as an eminent proof of the magnitude and splendour of Solomon's empire, as well as of the wisdom, strength, and beauty of the three united Grand Masters; so was their destruction typical of the ruin of the Jewish state, which received a temporary annihilation of seventy years when this temple was destroyed for their sin in neglecting to keep holy the sabbatical year, and was finally abolished and the people dispersed over the face of the globe, at the final destruction of Herod's temple by the Romans.¹⁷

A secret apartment was constructed at the western extremity of the Temple, as a depository for the ark of the covenant, illuminated by the glory of God. No unhallowed steps were permitted to tread its sacred pavement; and even the High Priest, after many ceremonial purifications—humble and unshod—was only allowed to enter this Holy place on the great day of annual expiation. Small were its dimensions, but costly were its ornaments, and taste and genius were displayed in lavish profusion.

Of riches much, but more of wisdom see,
Proportioned workmanship and masonry.

Some idea may be formed of the riches of this temple from the fact, that the gold used in decorating the Holy place alone, amounted to six hundred talents;¹⁸ which is equal to £4,320,000 of our money. The room was a perfect cube of thirty feet only, wainscotted with cedar overlaid with plates of gold, and decorated with precious stones, amongst which the topaz¹⁹ was most abundant;

¹⁷ Antiq. Mas. p. 357, with authorities.

¹⁸ 2 Chron. iii. 8.

¹⁹ The old Lectures of Masonry contained a legend about the topaz; but I am unacquainted with the authority on which it was introduced. It was as follows: About four years before the Temple at Jerusalem was commenced, Hiram Abiff, the Grand Architect of Tyre, purchased

and it emblematically signified SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND. Here were also a profusion of emeralds, sapphires, and garnets, as symbols of Faith, Hope, and Charity. The ceiling was gloriously enriched; and in the middle of its square surface a circle was inscribed—symbolical of Him whose centre is everywhere, and whose circumference is nowhere—adorned with gems of various colours, each invested with a mystical signification; and all concurring to elucidate that sublime inscription which masonic tradition informs us was embroidered amongst the cherubim, on the veil of blue, purple, and scarlet,²⁰ which concealed the glories of the adytum from the profane gaze of the multitude. The interpretation was—I AM THAT I AM—PAST, PRESENT, AND TO COME—THE BEGINNING, THE END, THE FIRST AND THE LAST—MORTAL MAN CANNOT COMPREHEND MY INFINITE PERFECTIONS; and its symbol was depicted on the ceiling of the apartment. The entrance door was in the east. It was composed of olive wood covered with purple, hyacinth, crimson and gold, to represent the four elements; and enriched with palm trees, open flowers and cherubim, all in embossed gold.

—behold
 What massy stores of burnished gold,
 Yet richer is our art;
 Not all the orient gems that shine,
 Nor treasures of rich Ophir's mine,
 Excel the Mason's art. *Weekes.*

from some Arabian merchants for the use of the palace, a quantity of curious stones and shells; and upon enquiring, found that chance had produced them; for some Arabian Troglodites having been cast away upon an island in the Red Sea, about three hundred furlongs from the coast, lost their ship, and were much distressed for want of provisions and other necessaries. At length, in digging up certain roots which promised to alleviate their hunger, they discovered an abundance of curious shells and precious stones. This event was considered of such importance by the king, that he deputed Hiram Abiff, accompanied by a considerable number of workmen, to explore the island in question for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of these representations; and in a few days he had the good fortune to find the TOPAZ in great abundance; and it became a general article of traffic with the Tyrian merchants. It is mentioned by the Prophet Ezekiel as an enrichment of the Tyrian monarch's throne.

²⁰ Or rather azure, purple, and crimson. The original word for the former is Teheleth, which is translated *hyacinthum*, in reference to the precious stone called by that name; which, like the sapphire, was anciently believed, according to the testimony of Oleaster, Tostatus,

How was the Deity represented in this gorgeous temple, since statues and images were forbidden? By his own direction the Israelites placed in their Tabernacles an Ark or Coffer, as a symbol or representative of the Divine Presence. Is this, then, to be considered an imitation of the rites and practices of the heathen? By no means. It is rather a reproof of their degeneracy. This splendid box was placed in the sanctuary on a rough stone pedestal^a to point out the inefficiency of visible objects of worship. And for the same reason the Deity assumed the appearance of a shapeless cloud whenever he condescended to visit his people; and in this form, which was incapable of being imitated with an idolatrous intention, the Divine glory overshadowed the ark both in the tabernacle and in the temple.

Lyranus, and other learned men, to be of the colour of a clear serene sky. The second is Argaman, which signifies purple; being derived from Ragam, or prince, who was distinguished by his purple robes; and the latter Tolaghat shani. The first word means a worm, as Psalm xxii. 6. and has been translated by the word *coccinum*, from *cocus*, which means either scarlet or crimson; and shani is derived from shanals to double. Hence the phrase means the crimson colour twice dyed.

^a There exist among Masons many legends respecting the origin and powers attached to the stone on which the ark of the covenant was placed. It was termed the Stone of Foundation. These traditions, though full of Rabbinical fancies, (vid. Mishna in Yoma, and Buxtorf de Arca. c. 22.) are not uninteresting. As traditions of great antiquity, they merit a brief and passing notice. It was called the stone of Adam; and its progress is traced through Seth, Enoch, and Noah, to Abraham and Isaac, who used it as an altar for sacrifice. It is said to be the stone on which Jacob rested when he was favoured with his sublime vision of the Ladder. It was carried into Egypt and placed in the sepulchre of Joseph, with whose bones it travelled over the Red Sea, and found its way into the hands of Moses, who used it successfully on various occasions; and at length it became the resting place for the ark of the covenant during the wanderings in the wilderness, and in the promised land until the time of David. It retained the same honourable place in the Sanctum Sanctorum of Solomon; was found in the temples of Zerubabel and Herod; although the ark of the covenant was missing after the Babylonish captivity; and remained in the foundations after Titus had destroyed the temple, to resist the impious attempt of Julian the apostate to frustrate our Saviour's prophecy, by emitting flames of fire which scattered and destroyed the workmen. On this stone was engraven that awful Name which none but Royal Arch Masons know, and is depicted in our Chapters by the Equilateral Triangle, the Circle, and the Double Cube. But this remarkable stone had a still more extensive reference, which endears it to the Christian Mason, and invests the legend with a portion of sublimity. It was emblematical of the Messiah—Jesus Christ, the chief corner stone of man's immortality; who was triumphant

The ark was made of Shittim wood, but was covered over inside and out, with pure gold. This wood possessed the properties of smoothness, hardness, and durability; it was not subject to rottenness or decay; and by its fragrance resisted the attacks of worms and insects. Our traditions say, that it was taken from the Burning Bush, which had been already consecrated by the awful presence of God. It remained uninjured by time, from its construction in the wilderness till the Babylonish captivity—a period of nearly one thousand years; and there are those who believe that it is still concealed in the bowels of the earth waiting for the final restoration of the people of God.

The most holy appendage to the ark was its lid or cover, called the Mercy Seat. This was composed of solid gold, four inches in thickness, and bore on its upper surface two golden cherubim face to face; which, with outspread wings, appeared to embrace the whole area of the lid, forming, as it were, a splendid chariot, on which the Shekinah rested, when the ark was in its place within the Holy of Holies.

From this sacred utensil the Oracles issued audibly whenever it was deemed necessary to consult the Deity on any public emergency. Christian writers have discovered many symbolical meanings in the Propitiatory and Mercy Seat. The cherubim were considered as emblems of God's universal presence as the moral governor of the universe. Their faces were turned towards the Mercy Seat in admiration of the promised Redemption of man, and that they might speedily ascertain the Divine will and pleasure; and towards each other, to denote concord and harmony. Their wings were displayed, not only from a principle of reverence for the awful majesty of God, but also to point out the alacrity by which his commissions were executed. United with the propitiatory, they denoted the ascending and descending angels at the nativity of Christ, to apprise mankind of the benefits re-

in his warfare with sin, death, and hell; and worked out the redemption of mankind by an expiatory sacrifice. From this reference arose the Rabbinical fable, that Jesus Christ stole this Sacred Name from the Stone of Foundation, and by the use of it worked all his miracles. Vid. *Toledoth Jesu*. p. 6. *Raymund. Pugio Fidei*. p. 2. c. 8. *Buxtorf. Lex. Rab.* p. 2541.

sulting from his divine mission ; and in mutually beholding each other, they displayed their joint consent in performing the will of God. These are a few of the most rational interpretations with which conjecture has invested this holy appendage to Jewish worship. But according to the doctrine contained in the old Lectures of Masonry, it was principally intended by the wisdom and mercy of God, to preserve his people from falling into the error, so common at that early period, of violating the second commandment. When they came out of Egypt, they had adopted the idolatrous custom of carrying about "the tabernacles of Moloch and Chiun their images; *the star of their god Remphan, which they made to themselves.*"²² To supersede the necessity of this abomination, therefore, God condescended to give them a tabernacle of their own, attended by a glorious Shekinah instead of a star, and furnished with every requisite for the celebration of a pompous ceremonial worship. And how were these gracious purposes accomplished? Not certainly in accordance with the means used for their purification. The people were wedded to error—they loved darkness rather than Light—they cherished the Spurious Freemasonry of their heathen neighbours to such an extent, that at one unhappy period of their history, there were only seven thousand persons amongst all the tribes of Israel who had not embraced it.²³

The Ark was placed in this sacred depository that the Israelites might know, with absolute certainty, where to offer up their sacrifices ; for, where the ark was, there was also the glory of the Lord. As God intended to establish a peculiar system of worship, so he appointed one certain place where external rites should be performed ; and, to secure their observance with decency, sanctity, and reverence, he condescended personally to superintend it, by a visible emanation of His glory, whom the heavens cannot contain, seated between the cherubim of the Mercy Seat, or lid of the ark,²⁴ as a symbol of the Divine presence. And here the High Priest made his annual atonement for the people. Hence it was accounted so sacred that none

²² Compare Amos v. 26. with Acts vii. 43.

²³ 1 Kings xix. 18.

²⁴ Exod. xl. 34. Thus Calvin said :—"Præsentiam gratiæ voluit visibile symbolo testari.

were permitted to see it but the High Priest, and he only once a year, after much ritual purification. "The author of the book Cozri justly saith, that the ark, with the mercy seat and cherubim, were the foundation, root, heart, and marrow of the whole temple, and all the Levitical worship therein performed. And, therefore, had there nothing else of the first temple been wanting in the second but the ark only, this alone would have been reason enough for the old men to have wept, when they remembered the first temple in which it was; and also for the saying of Haggai, that the second temple was as nothing in comparison of the first; so great a part had it in the glory of this temple, as long as it remained in it."²⁵

Is it asked, what became of the tabernacle of Moses when the temple was completed, and the ark removed into the Sanctum Sanctorum? The enquiry is very natural, and I will endeavour to answer it. The middle chambers of each story over the porch of the temple—which it will be recollected was of greater altitude than most of our English church steeples, being one hundred and eighty feet high—were appropriated as depositories of such parts of the tabernacle as were not introduced into the temple worship, viz., the golden candlesticks, the altar of incense, the curtains, &c. All these chambers were without light, except the upper story, that the holy paraphernalia might not be subject to profane inspection. The contents of the middle chamber of the upper story were the most sacred; and our traditions say, that King Solomon rewarded so many of the 80,000 Fellow Crafts as embraced the Jewish faith, with the privilege of admission into this sacellum; and every brother who has been passed to that degree, is acquainted with its furniture and contents.

Some faint idea of the splendour attending the services of the temple, may be formed from an enumeration of the appendages to divine worship which the munificence of Solomon induced him to consecrate to that purpose. These are, according to Josephus, a table constructed wholly of pure gold for the shew-bread, while the other tables contained 20,000 golden vessels, and 40,000 ves-

²⁵ *Frid. Con.* vol. 1. p. 147.

sels of silver. There were 12,000 candlesticks, many of them being of gold; 80,000 wine cups, and 10,000 goblets of gold. 20,000 goblets of silver; 20,000 golden and 40,000 silver measures; 80,000 dishes for the altar, of gold, and 160,000 of silver; 20,000 golden, and 50,000 silver censers. The priestly habiliments were equally profuse and magnificent. There were 1000 pontifical robes, with ephods and suits of precious stones; with 10,000 silken, and 10,000 purple vestments for the priests. Solomon also provided 200,000 trumpets, with 200,000 silver stoles for the Levites, and 400,000 musical instruments formed of gold and silver. The estimate of the cost of all these gorgeous utensils, robes, &c. exceeds our comprehension. The expense was necessarily prodigious; but the resources of our Grand Master appear to have been inexhaustible. This was a proud era in the Jewish history; and if their monarchs had not proved worthless, they might have remained a great and mighty nation to the end of time.

On a view of this magnificent edifice, thus finished, furnished and decorated, what sublime ideas arise in our minds. It was—to use the language which Professor Green applies to a Christian cathedral—it was an architectural *word* for the Omnipresence of God.

Amongst such a vast concourse of people as were assembled together at the construction of this edifice, it is natural to expect every variety of propensities both good and evil. Accordingly, our traditions furnish instances both amongst the Apprentices and Craftsmen, of treachery—violation of sacred pledges—and the commission of actual crime. But nothing could escape the wisdom and vigilance of the Grand Masters, and their subordinate officers; and as we have seen rewards distributed to meritorious workmen; so strict justice was executed on offenders. These instances, some of which have been thought worthy of preservation in the ineffable Degrees, were not numerous; for the brethren became fortified against evil by the Lectures of their Masters and Wardens; and their hearts, imbued with the mild spirit of philanthropy and kindness, were open to the impressions of Truth and Brotherly Love. From the above causes, however, the connection of the Widow's Son with the building of the temple was endeared to the

two monarchs; and, to preserve and consecrate his memory, a new arrangement of discipline was adopted; and a legend incorporated into the system, which served to promote a similar object with the fabulous narrative used in the spurious initiations, viz., to inculcate and impress on the candidate's mind, the doctrine of a resurrection and a future state. Indeed, the respect which both the Grand Masters entertained for their useful ally was enthusiastic and overwhelming; and they acceded, on many occasions, to his wishes, in points unconnected with the profession of which he was so bright an ornament. Thus he prevailed on the King of Tyre to issue a proclamation, forbidding his subjects to offer children in sacrifice to their god Moloch or Cronus.

And how were his services requited? Not merely by honours and distinctions, but by a reward which exceeded, in his estimation, all earthly compensations. He demanded of Solomon the hand of Adoniram's sister in marriage. His request was granted, and honoured by the two kings with a public celebration. The legend of his death it will be unnecessary to repeat; but there are some circumstances connected with it, which may be interesting. His illustrious consort, whose memory is dear to every true Mason, was so sincerely attached to him, that at his death she became inconsolable; and refusing to be comforted, she spent the greater part of her time in lamentation and mourning over the tomb which contained his venerated ashes. The monument erected to his memory was peculiarly splendid; having been curiously constructed of black and white marble, from plans furnished by the Grand Warden on the purest masonic principles; and occupied an honourable situation in the private garden belonging to the royal palace.*

Th' associate band in solemn state
The awful loss deplor'd;
And Wisdom mourn'd the ruthless fate,
That whelm'd the mystic Word.

* "The burial place called the sepulchres of the kings of the house of David, was a very sumptuous and stately thing. It lies now without the walls of Jerusalem, but, as it is supposed, was formerly within them, before that city was destroyed by the Romans. It consists of a large court of about one hundred and twenty feet square, with a gallery or cloister on the left hand; which court and gallery, with the pillars that

His afflicted widow pined away in retirement at his sepulchre; until one evening, as she was returning from the performance of her melancholy duty, along the terrace from the gate Shallecheth to the royal palace, where probably she had apartments, overcome by the intensity of her feelings, she precipitated herself from the arched causeway which overhung the valley of Moriah, and perished in the dreadful abyss. To perpetuate the recollection of these distressing circumstances, the Israelitish and Tyrian monarchs erected three brazen statues; one at Jerusalem, another at Joppa, and a third at Tyre; the former of which was carried in triumph to Rome by Titus, after the final destruction of Herod's temple; and the latter shared in the demolition of Tyre by Alexander the Great.

The principles of Masonry thus cemented and exemplified in the experience derived from the erection of this magnificent temple was propagated throughout the world. "Many of Solomon's Masons, before he died, began to travel, and carried with them their skill and taste in architecture, with the secrets of the fraternity, into Asia, Africa, and also into Europe; for the old constitutions affirm that one called Ninus, who had been at the building of Solomon's Temple, carried the art into Germany and Gaul. In many places, being highly esteemed, they obtained special privileges; and because they taught their liberal art only to the free-born, they were called Free Masons; constituting Lodges in the places where they built stately piles, by the encouragement of the great and wealthy, who soon requested to be accepted as members of their Lodges, and Brothers of the craft; till by merit those Free and Accepted Masons came to be Masters and Wardens. Even princes and potentates

supported it, were cut out of the solid marble rock. At the end of the gallery there is a narrow passage, through which there is an entrance into a large room or hall, of about twenty-four feet square; within which are several lesser rooms one within another, with stone doors opening into them; all which rooms, with the great room, were likewise cut out of the rock. In the sides of those lesser rooms are several niches, in which the corpses of the deceased kings were deposited in stone coffins. It seems to have been the work of King Solomon; for it could not have been made without vast expense; and it is the only true remainder of old Jerusalem which is now to be seen in that place." (*Prid. Con.* vol. 1, p. 27. from *Mandrell*, p. 16.)

became Grand Masters, each in his own dominions, in imitation of King Solomon, whose memory, as a Mason, has been duly revered, and will be till architectures hall be consumed in the general conflagration."²⁷

Such were the results of the union of Speculative and Operative Masonry at the building of this noble edifice. It was symbolized in the temple itself, which was a place for the worship of all nations;—universal as the attributes of him in whose honour it was erected. Here was a Sanctum Sanctorum for the residence of the Divinity; a holy place or sanctuary for the priests; a portico and courts for the Jewish people; and a court for the Gentiles; besides innumerable apartments for the accommodation of all. Unfortunately, the Light of Speculative Masonry became obscured and almost extinguished by Jewish apostacy, added to the meretricious attractions of the spurious system, before their total punishment by the captivity of Babylon; when the temple was razed to its foundations; and Light, or the Shekinah of God, withdrawn for ever.

Where is this gorgeous temple now? Where the altars and cherubim and vessels of silver and gold? Where are the palaces of the Jewish monarchs;—where the cities, and gardens, and vineyards of Palestine? All vanished from the face of the earth. The rich and prolific soil of Judea—the land of milk and honey—is a barren waste, unfit for the abode of man. The rock on which the temple was built presents its bare breast to every storm; and appears, in its utter desolation, to lament the downfall of its glories.

The Niobe of nations! There she stands,
Childless and crownless, in her voiceless woe;
An empty urn within her withered hands,
Whose holy dust was scattered long ago.

Byron.

²⁷ Noorth. Const. p. 31.

LECTURE X.

ON THE FORM AND DISPOSITION OF A MASONS' LODGE.

Come all ye gentle springs that move
And animate the human mind,
And by your energy improve
The social bond by which we're join'd.
The Sacred Lodge, of care devoid,
From haggard malice always free,
Shall by your aid be still employ'd
In social love and harmony.

Gavin Wilson.

A LODGE OF MASONS consists of a certain number of Brethren who are assembled together to expatiate on the mysteries of the craft; having the Holy Bible open on the Pedestal to teach them the sacred principles of religion and justice; on which rest those two expressive emblems the Square and Compass, to remind them of the duties they owe to society and to themselves; the Book of Constitutions, where they may study the general statutes of Masonry; the Bye-Laws, to point out their duty as members of an individual Lodge; and the Warrant, by virtue of which, having been issued by the Grand Lodge, and enrolled in the archives of the Province where it is situated, at the general quarter sessions of the peace, the Brethren meet to transact the business of Masonry.

The Form of the Lodge is an oblong square, situated due East and West; supported by three pillars, and standing on holy ground. Its dimensions are unlimited, and its covering no less than the spangled canopy of heaven. To this object the Mason's mind is continually directed; and in those blessed regions he hopes at last to arrive by the aid of the theological ladder, which Jacob in his vision beheld reaching from earth to heaven; the

three principal rounds of which admonish us to have faith in God, hope in immortality, and charity to all mankind.

From these general principles it appears that a Masons' lodge is a microcosm or miniature world, over which the glory in the centre sheds its refulgent rays, like the sun in the firmament, to enlighten the Brethren in the paths of virtue and science. In the Lodge, the practice of social and moral virtue is as essential towards the Brethren, and invested with the same degree of approbation or censure, as the performance of our public duties as Christians and citizens of the world at large. Hence arises the propriety of that sublime recommendation in the charge which is delivered to an Entered Apprentice at his initiation, to practise "the important duties he owes to God, to his neighbour, and to himself. To God, by never mentioning his name but with that awe and reverence with are due from the creature to the Creator, by imploring his aid, on all lawful undertakings, and by looking up to him in every emergency for comfort and support. To his neighbour, by acting with him upon the square; by rendering him every kind office which justice or mercy may require; by relieving his distresses, and soothing his affliction; and by doing to him as, in similar cases, he would wish to be done to. And to himself, by such a prudent and well regulated course of discipline, as may best conduce to the preservation of his corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energy; thereby enabling him to exert the talents wherewith God has blessed him, as well to his glory as to the welfare of his fellow-creatures."

A Mason sitting in his Lodge, surrounded by the characteristic symbols which are distributed on all sides, feels that he is a member of the universal lodge of nature; created by the Author and Source of *Light* and redeemed by divine love or *Charity*. He seriously reflects on the incumbent duties that bind him to practise the permanent virtue and morality which these emblems embody and recommend; in the hope that when he is finally summoned to give up his accounts, he may be transferred from his lodge on earth to the Grand Temple above; there to enjoy for ever the bright system of Freemasonry in its perfect and glorified state of ineffable Light, unbounded Charity, and undisturbed Peace.

I now proceed to consider in detail the characteristic principles which prevail in the form and disposition of our Lodges.

1. They are formed in upper chambers, and carefully guarded by tyled doors and drawn swords. The highest of hills and the lowest of valleys are situations the least exposed to unauthorized intrusion. Thus Masons are said to meet in these situations to commemorate a remarkable custom of the ancient Jews in the building of their temples, schools, and synagogues; and as by the Jewish law, whenever ten of them assembled together for that purpose, they proceeded to work; so it was with our ancient brethren, who formed themselves into a Lodge whenever ten Operative Masons were assembled, consisting of the Master, two Wardens, and seven Fellow Crafts.

Such places were always accounted holy; and the spirit of God was thought to repose on the highest hills. Thus the Deity appeared to Abraham on Mount Moriah; to Moses on Mount Sinai and Pisgah; whose cemetery was in the valley; and was constantly present on the former mountain after the building of the temple. The final Grand Lodge which shall be holden on earth will be convened in the valley of Jehoshaphat, or Judgment; when the captivities of Judah and Jerusalem shall be restored, and all nations gathered together into one fold under one shepherd.

This belief appears to have been confirmed by the Almighty himself; for he said to the prophet Ezekiel "upon the top of the mountain, the whole limit thereof, round about, shall be most holy." For the same reason the nations by which the Jews were surrounded sacrificed on the summit of high hills. Generally before the erection of temples, the *celestial* deities were worshipped on mounds, and the *terrestrial* ones in valleys. At a later period we find Christian churches placed on eminences wherever it was practicable.

In such situations, therefore, our ancient brethren opened their Lodges; and tradition says that, on this principle, the oldest Lodge in England was held in a crypt beneath the foundations of York Cathedral. Such precautions, in those early times, were esteemed necessary for the preservation of that secrecy by which our

institution has ever been distinguished, and which constitutes its essence and pride. This is, indeed, the characteristic by which its benefits are preserved and transmitted to posterity. Deprived of its secrecy, Freemasonry would long since have been lost to mankind. Like the glorious Gospel, it is a mystery which hath been hidden from the foundation of the world.¹ Our Saviour expressly assigns this reason for the mysterious allegories or parables in which his instruction was so frequently imbedded, "that the people who heard him might not understand the valuable truths which he privately expounded to his disciples."² Thus we follow the example of the Great Architect of the Universe, who concealeth from mankind the secret mysteries of his providence. And, as our lectures very sublimely teach, "the wisest of men cannot penetrate into the arcana of heaven, nor can they divine to-day what to-morrow may bring forth."

If we consider secrecy as an abstract principle, a series of weighty evidence might be adduced to prove that it is one of the praiseworthy virtues which man, in his present state, is bound, not only to estimate very highly, but to practise in his commerce with society, if he would execute the duties of his station with credit to himself, and advantage to the community at large. In all ranks of life the duty remains the same. The apprentice must keep his master's secrets; the master must take care of his own. Is an individual impannelled on a Jury of his country? His deliberations are conducted in private, and must not be divulged. If a statesman were to betray the secrets of his cabinet, public business could not be carried on, and the most ruinous effects would soon appear. What would be the consequence were a sentinel to communicate to the enemy that secret pass-word by which his post is guarded? The same principle pervades the policy of every institution under heaven.

Nor is secrecy a novel doctrine. A regard for this virtue has been peculiar to every nation and people of the world from the earliest times on record. The Egyptians venerated it so highly as to veil all their religion and politics under its impenetrable mask: and their great goddess, Isis, had this inscription attached to her altars,

¹ Eph. iii. 9.

² Mark iv. 11, 12

"I am all that is, has been, or shall be ; and no mortal can remove the veil that covers me." Pythagoras also not only enjoined upon his disciples a silence of five years' continuance, in his exoteric degree, but bound them under the most solemn obligations to a perpetual secrecy respecting the peculiar mysteries of the institution when advanced to the higher grade of the esoteric or acroatic degree. And Iamblichus says,³ their peculiar secrets and doctrines were forbidden to be committed to writing, and were preserved by memory only. The Master's lectures were heard only within the walls ; and, if the brethren were desirous of communicating with each other in public, they used Signs and Tokens, which were intelligible only to themselves. We are told by one of the ancient fathers of Christianity that "their philosophers had sublime notions of the divine nature, which they kept secret and never discovered to the people but under the veil of fables and allegories. All the Eastern nations, the Persians, the Indians, the Syrians, concealed secret mysteries under hieroglyphical symbols and parables. The wise men of all those religions knew the sense and true meaning of them, whilst the vulgar and uninitiated went no further than the outward and visible symbol, and so discerned only the bark by which they were covered."⁴

The Spurious Freemasonry was entirely founded on silence and secrecy ; and no candidate could be admitted to participate in the privileges which it was supposed to convey, without having first given an unequivocal proof of his taciturnity by a long and severe probation. A terrible instance of the consequences which attended a violation of this principle has been handed down to us in the story of Hipparchus, a Pythagorean, who, "having out of spleen and resentment violated and broke through the several engagements of the society, was held in the utmost detestation, expelled from the school, as a most infamous and abandoned person ; and, as he was esteemed dead to the principles of virtue and philosophy, they had a tomb erected for him, according to their custom, as though he had been naturally dead. The shame and disgrace that justly attended so great a breach of truth and

³ Vit. Pyth. c. 17.

⁴ Orig. cont. Cels. l. 1. p. 11.

fidelity, drove the unhappy wretch to such despair that he proved his own executioner; and so abhorred was even his memory, that he was denied the rites and ceremonies of burial used to the dead in those times; instead of which *his body was suffered to lie upon the sands of the sea shore* in the isle of Samos, to be devoured by rapacious animals."⁵

It is unnecessary to extend this subject. Solomon, our Grand Master, and the wisest of men, brands those with dishonesty who cannot keep a secret.⁵ Society is founded on the principle of mutual dependance and mutual aid. Each state, community, family, and individual, is possessed of secrets whose disclosure would be personally injurious, without conveying a corresponding benefit to the public; and though private feelings or interests ought to yield, if placed in competition with the general good; yet, in all cases, where the advantage is equivocal, it is the wisest and best policy to withhold the information. On this principle Freemasonry disseminates its benefits in the tyled recesses of the Lodge. They are open to the ingenuous and candid enquirer, if he seek them by the legitimate process; while they are carefully concealed from those who might use them improperly, or convert them to purposes which would prove injurious to society. The good and worthy candidate is received with open arms; but to the vicious and dissolute the tyler is instructed to oppose the point of his naked sword.

But, says the sceptic, where is the necessity of secrecy now, when you confess that the darkness of error is past, and the true Light shineth? If your Institution be laudable as you describe it, why not reveal it for the benefit of mankind? I should as soon look for a star to fall from the firmament of heaven, as for a caviller against this divine science to be satisfied with even a mathematical demonstration. The benefits of Masonry can only be enjoyed by their union with secrecy. Lay its peculiar mysteries open to the world and the charm would cease to operate. They resemble the Sybil's leaves—exhibiting to the uninitiated merely the appearance of a series of naked and disjointed facts; while to the well-instructed brother they constitute a wise and connected system

⁵ Calcott, p. 32.

which conveys essential assistance towards the consummation of human happiness. If publicly disseminated, they would become familiar as the growth of a plant; and, like that incomprehensible phenomenon, would be neglected and perhaps despised. At the Reformation of our church, nothing could exceed the curiosity of mankind to read and investigate the golden stores contained in the Holy Bible, which had been as a sealed book for many centuries. Yet, though it contains secrets of far greater importance than those of Freemasonry—curiosity being gratified, the passion subsided; and it is regarded by the mass of mankind with as much indifference as though it contained nothing affecting their temporal or eternal welfare. So Masonry, were its privileges thrown open to the world, would probably be neglected, because the stimulus would be wanting from which it derives its popularity and interest. But its secrets are open to the inspection of the worthy and the good in every class of mankind. The page is displayed before them; and if they refuse to read, it is too much to hear them complain of ignorance, or to speak evil of a science which they want the inclination or the capacity to understand.

2. The form and extent of the Lodge considered.

The form of a Masons' Lodge possesses nothing in common with the caverns of initiation into the Spurious Freemasonry, although its professors, like ourselves, used many astronomical symbols; and considered the cave as an emblem of the universe. *It was circular* or domed, in reference to the solar worship; and all its enrichments partook of the same character, and were conducted by corresponding machinery. Our Lodges, on the contrary, are *angular*; ample in their dimensions, and extensive in their reference. We may indeed say, in the expressive language of Zophar, the friend of Job: "*It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? Deeper than hell; what canst thou know? The measure therefore is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.*" And what can more strongly express, or more strikingly demonstrate an idea of universality? What can produce upon the Mason's mind a more forcible impression, that his benevolence should know no bounds, save that of prudence? Josephus asserts "that the proportions of the measures of the tabernacle proved

it to be an imitation of the system of the world."⁶ In like manner a Craft Masons' Lodge, with its three chief degrees—with its science and its morals—the system and polity of its government—its constitutions and its sacred symbols, arranged in due form and order—is a perfect world in itself; excluding every thing which might interfere with the general harmony and brotherly love that form its great and peculiar characteristics.

That the extent of the Lodge may be more clearly typified in the mind of a well instructed brother, a symbol of the All-seeing Eye of God is placed in some conspicuous situation; that the idea of his universal presence and divine inspection may never for a moment be absent from his recollection. And while the great luminaries of heaven, those living proofs of God's eternal power and goodness, overshadow the holy place where he is seated, he is impressed with reverence and devotion to the Being whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain.

By this disposition of the Lodge we are admonished that our thoughts and affections, in one glorious strain of uninterrupted praise, ought always to flow spontaneously from the heart; under the assured conviction that wherever we may be—in the temple or in the closet—in the field or in the vineyard—still we are before the altar of our God—still the protecting arm is over us. "He shall defend us under his wings, and we shall be safe under his feathers; his faithfulness and truth shall be our shield and buckler."

3. The ground of a Masons' Lodge is holy.

We now approach a subject of grave and serious consideration. If there be found in the world a single spot of earth which the Deity appears to have marked with greater care, and to have consecrated with more than ordinary solemnity;—should we discover a single holy place where he himself delighted to dwell—that spot of earth is an emblem of the floor of a Masons' Lodge. There we may reasonably expect to find the Light of Truth—there we may hope to be exempt from the intrusion of those wordly passions which agitate our nature amidst the cares, and troubles, and jealousies of this transitory life. Should this floor happen to be covered

⁶ Jos. Ant. Jud. l. c. 7.

with a mosaic pavement, surrounded by its beautiful tessellated border, we find no difficulty in appreciating its moral reference. We know that though we are not free from the calamities of life; yet there is a method by which adversity may be lightened, and pain deprived of its sting. When our steps tread amidst the chequered scenes of good and evil with which this uncertain world abounds; if our cup teem with affliction and sorrow, we are taught by our emblematical floorcloth, not to grieve as if we stood alone in misery, for it is the lot of our species; not to sink into despondency; because sorrow is allotted to us as a corrective and purifier; that presumption may be subdued, and the intrusions of doubt or infidelity suppressed in the bud. Affliction constitutes an essential part of the system of providence; and it is by the operation of occasional losses and disappointments—so teaches the masonic pavement—that the greatest measure of general happiness is secured and distributed by a wise and beneficent Creator, who “does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.”

If we look abroad we shall find that divine *mercy* in the distribution of good is the prevailing sentiment. Some, indeed, are oppressed by sickness, but more enjoy their health; a few perhaps are mourning, but numbers happily rejoice; a sight of pain is occasionally presented to our eyes, but generally we see nothing but ease and comfort. Thus the chequered scenes of life are usually bright and cheerful, though at times obscured by an accidental shadow. Clouds and darkness are the portion of vice only, while virtue is enlightened with the sunshine of peace.

We further learn from the beautiful groundwork of our Lodge, the precariousness and uncertainty of our tenure in this life; whence arises the duty of “rejoicing with those who do rejoice, and weeping with those who weep;” or, in other words, congratulating the happy, and compassionating the distressed. The latter, however, is more in unison with the benevolent lessons of Freemasonry. It is inculcated on the principle before us. How diversified soever men may be with respect to rank, or talent, or wealth, in this transitory life, the time will soon arrive when all these accidental distinctions will cease, and be effectually levelled by death. And though

splendid monuments and pompous epitaphs may be the heralds of riches and power, yet it is virtue alone which ennobles the mind, and will procure lasting distinction when the grave gives up its dead. From this consideration we are taught in the old Lectures, "to conduct ourselves, in our commerce with the world, according to the dictates of right reason; to cultivate harmony; to maintain charity, and live in unity and brotherly love."

4. A few reasons to shew the propriety and wisdom of placing our Lodges due East and West.

This was a disposition which universally accompanied the practice of religion in all nations, and has been thought to have originated from the rising and setting of the sun, and the origin and propagation of human learning and science. But there are other reasons for this custom which appear to be equally worthy of our consideration. The garden of Eden was placed in the East, and our first parents expelled towards the West. The Ark of Enoch was placed due East and West, as also were the tabernacle and temple of the Jews. If we view with the eye of philosophy and religion the beautiful works of the creation, and all things therein contained—the heavens declaring the glory of God, and the firmament shewing his handiwork—it becomes an incumbent duty upon his creatures to bow with reverence and humility before the great Creator, who has never, from the earliest period of time, left himself without a living witness amongst men. In the first ages of the world, Abel offered a more acceptable sacrifice than his brother Cain—Noah was a just and upright man—Jacob wrestled with an angel, and obtained a blessing for himself and his posterity. But we do not find any records of a temple peculiarly set apart for divine worship, till after the deliverance of the children of Israel from their Egyptian bondage; which it pleased the Lord to accomplish with a high hand and a stretched out arm, under the conduct of his faithful servant Moses. As this chosen people were destined to inherit the promised land, and to become a great and mighty nation, God gave them a series of laws and revelations for their moral and religious guidance; and as a repository for these invaluable documents, as well as a place for the solemnization of divine worship, Moses was commanded to erect a tent or tabernacle in the wilderness, which he

placed due East and West, in commemoration of that great and mighty wind which first blew East and then West, by which their happy deliverance was effected, and Pharoah and his host destroyed in his attempt to follow them through the passages of the Red Sea. As this tabernacle was intended as a temporary substitute for a more permanent building, constructed on the same model, and placed in the same situation with respect to the cardinal points of the compass, when his people should have obtained peaceable possession of the land of Canaan; it may be justly inferred that the practice was sanctioned by the Divinity.⁷

Heathen temples were, in like manner, placed due East and West; and the statues being deposited at the West end, the people, during their devotions, stood with their faces towards that quarter.⁸ Judah, the most distinguished of the tribes, had the eastern part of the camp assigned to him, as the station of honour. The Gospel was first published in the East, and afterwards spread over the western parts of the globe. Christian Churches and Masonic Lodges are built due East and West, and the eastern part in each is considered the most sacred. Interments of the dead are still conducted on a similar principle.

Throughout the works of nature the same system is visible; and, therefore, its origin must be ascribed to the Creator of all things. The sun, that great source of light and heat, created for the benefit and convenience of man, rises in the East to open the day—gains his meridian in the South, to point out the necessity of a brief cessation from our daily employments, that we may be invigorated by rest and refreshment—and retires to the West to close the labours of the day. From these remarkable appearances in the heavens, the ancient inhabitants of the world considered the East to be the face of the earth, and the West its back.

An objection has been taken to the above arrangement, by considering that the changes occasioned by the precession of the equinoxes have somewhat altered the position of ancient buildings; and that, if the eastern and western points are to be determined by the rising and

⁷ *Ezek.* xxiv. 2.

⁸ *Porph. de ant. Nymphæarum.*

setting of the sun, a system of uniformity would appear necessary throughout the whole course of time; as these edifices, therefore, are at variance with the points thus ascertained, the position is not correctly exemplified, and the theory, of course, falls to the ground. It will be seen at once that this objection, though often urged, is so replete with fallacy and subterfuge, as scarcely to need a formal refutation. The terms East and West have been honoured with peculiar notice ever since the world began; and it is from the uniform practice of our ancient brethren that we retain a regard for these points in all our ceremonies.

In the early times of Christianity, this practice was observed with reverence. There was, however, this material variation from the ancient system, that while both Jews and Heathens worshipped with their faces towards the West, in which quarter the adyta were placed, the Christians reversed the custom. Our Saviour is denominated by St. Luke "ORIENS;" and therefore the Christian converts worshipped, and covenanted with Christ, with their faces to the East, and they were taught to abjure Satan towards the West.⁹ Origen,¹⁰ who flourished about the middle of the third century, *announces* the fact, though he assigns no reason for it. His words are: "In Ecclesiasticis observationibus sunt nonnulla hujusmodi quæ omnibus quidem facere necesse est, nec tamen ratio, eorum omnibus patet; nam quod genus flectimus, orantes; et quod ex omnibus cœli plagis, *ad solam orientis partem conversi*, orationem fundimus, non facile cuiquam puto ratione compertum." Epiphanius says that it was the error of Elaxus to forbid his followers to pray towards the East;¹¹ and Prochorus adds, that St. John the Evangelist used always to pray with his face in that direction.¹²

The reasons which have been assigned for this custom are derived, as I have already observed, from the creation; the garden of Eden being placed in the East, and man expelled towards the West; wherefore Christians pray, says Basil,¹³ looking towards the East, in earnest expectation of a better country,¹⁴ i. e. Paradise. Clement of

⁹ Ambrose. Dion. Areop.

¹¹ Epiph. adv. Osm.

¹³ Basil de S. Sancto. c. 27.

¹⁰ Orig. in lib. Num. Hom. 5.

¹² Proch. in vit. S. John, c. 5.

¹⁴ Esak. xliii. 2.

Alexandria refers it to another cause. The East, he says, is, as it were, the birth of the day, and from thence the light springeth; therefore we pray towards the East.¹⁵ Again, the custom has been referred to the crucifixion; for, as the Redeemer was sacrificed with his face towards the West, Christians, during their devotions, ought to look towards Him from whom they expect salvation. And it has also been considered to have respect to the general judgment, because the angels revealed to the disciples who were witnesses of Christ's ascension *towards the East*, that "the same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come, *in like manner*, as you have seen him go into heaven." And indeed the very same thing had been already communicated to them by Christ himself, in these remarkable words, "As the lightning cometh *out of the East*, and shineth even unto the West, *so shall also* the coming of the Son of Man be."

6. Remarks on the Pillars which support the Lodge.

Our Lodges are supported by three pillars called Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty; which have been adopted as the basis of the system; because without wisdom to contrive, strength to support, and beauty to adorn, no architecture can be considered perfect. Wisdom contrived the temple at Jerusalem; Strength supported the design with materials and men; and Beauty adorned it with a profusion of curious workmanship in timber, jewelry, and the precious metals.

Amongst the primitive professors of this holy science, the creation of the world out of Chaos formed a sublime subject of disquisition, in which were displayed those three prominent attributes of the Deity—Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. Wisdom was exemplified in the formation of our planet, and its attendant orbs. Strength, in the nice adjustment of the balance by which they are mutually supported in their rapid and complicated evolutions:

For ever singing as they shine,
The hand that made us is divine.

And Beauty, in the entire arrangement, as well as in the natural decorations with which the parts are so profusely adorned. Gradually were the effects displayed. Order

succeeded Chaos. Darkness vanished before the blessed radiance of light. The sea became dry land. Water, earth, and air, teemed with their myriads of inhabitants. And last of all, man, the crown and glory of the creation, appeared in the image of God—erect in stature; “infinite in faculties;” having “dominion over the fish of the sea, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

Thus Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty were triumphant; and “God saw every thing that he had made, and beheld it was very good.” The concave vault of heaven, like a superb coronet, spangled with brilliant gems, equally with the gaudy scenery which is spread in such rich profusion over the face of nature, proclaim, as with the voice of angels, the existence of these grand masonic pillars at that period to *contrive*, to *support*, and to *adorn* the august bodies which occupy the regions of universal space.

In a masonic Lodge these pillars are represented by three principal officers, whose duty in governing the brethren is expressed in the symbols which are suspended at their breasts. But when the Lodge is harmoniously constructed, these duties are not onerous; and if exercised in the spirit of genuine Masonry, they constitute the links which connect the members in an unbroken chain of brotherly love.

And here I may, with great propriety, offer a few suggestions to these officers on the efficacious discharge of their several duties, that pleasure and profit may mutually result. First, let them set a good example of regularity and decorum in their own conduct, both in the Lodge and in the world. Order is heaven’s first law. It constitutes the beauty and stability of the masonic system. Let them open the Lodge punctually at the prescribed hour—work the lectures diligently and scientifically, during the time of labour; and if the Junior Warden’s call be heard, let not refreshment be extended beyond the moderate bounds which decency prescribes. When the sun sets, let the Senior Warden be ready to perform his duty at the command of the Worshipful Master, and see that none go away dissatisfied, or unimproved in virtue and science.

The W. M. should always bear in his memory, that to

him the brethren look for instruction—on him depend the welfare and success—the credit and popularity of the community. His situation, as the chief pillar of the Lodge, is most important; and if he fail in the satisfactory discharge of its duties, he inflicts a fatal blow, not only on the Lodge, which will be the first victim of an ill-placed confidence, but on the order of Freemasonry itself, which will suffer in public estimation, should its principal officer prove incompetent to the high office he has undertaken; should fail through inattention, neglect, or incapacity, to improve the brethren in wisdom and knowledge; or to vindicate and defend the purity of the order against the attacks and surmises of those who ridicule or condemn it, simply because they do not understand its object, and are incapable of comprehending its beauty and utility.

There is one point in the management of a Lodge, which requires not only great tact, but true firmness of mind in the Worshipful Master and his officers. I mean in those unhappy cases where disputes and divisions prevail amongst the brethren. On such occasions, a regard for the purity of Freemasonry, and its reputation in the Lodge over which he presides, makes it necessary that the Worshipful Master should act promptly and decisively; nor must he, under any circumstances, shrink from the performance of a positive duty, for the surest method of obtaining at once the approbation of the brethren and of his own conscience, is to discharge his duty punctually, faithfully, and impartially.

Freemasonry is a system of peace, order, and harmony. The elements of dispute and division are not found in any of its institutes. The brethren meet on the level and part on the square. The utmost extent of fraternal affection which can subsist between man and man, is supposed to be displayed between the brethren of a masonic Lodge. It is enjoined equally in the ancient Charges, the Constitutions, and the Lectures; and the world at large, amidst all their cavils and objections on other points, are inclined to give us credit for our brotherly love.

From these considerations, the Master will use his influence and authority to convince his masonic companions of the necessity—so far as regards the interests of

the Craft in general—so far as regards the welfare of the Lodge—so far as regards their own peace, or the happiness of their brethren—of preserving the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. In all cases it is more honourable to unite in the principle of conceding points of minor importance, than to foment disputes that may involve consequences which it is impossible to foresee, and frequently impracticable to remedy. On all occasions he ought to possess sufficient knowledge of human nature to prevail on the brethren to be unanimous in their conclusions, however their opinions may vary in detail; for it is the safest, wisest, and best policy to submit cheerfully and implicitly to the decision of a majority, in the assured belief that such a decision has the greatest chance to be correct.

A portion of responsibility, although in an inferior degree, is incurred by the representatives of Strength and Beauty. If they conscientiously perform their allotted tasks, the Master will not only be assisted and encouraged, but, in a manner compelled to execute his office, at least creditably, if not beneficially. He will escape censure, if he do not merit praise. Prompted by the *equal* measures of the one, and the *integrity* of the other, he may be induced to govern his Lodge on the principles of *morality* and *justice*; even should higher incentives be absent from his bosom—even though a love of the science should have waxed cold, and he should have coveted this high office merely to enjoy its honours and its power.

It is devoutly to be wished that improper motives might never induce a Mason to aspire to an official situation in the Lodge. From such an unnatural ambition evil is sure to proceed. If unqualified, office is rather a disgrace than an honour, because it is impossible, under such circumstances, to conceal ignorance, or to throw a veil over imperfection. And an exhibition of incapacity, in those who are expected to instruct the ignorant and lead the anxious enquirer to a knowledge of the truth, excites no feeling but pity and contempt. While, on the other hand, when the Master's chair is filled with ability and talent, respect and approbation are ensured; the words of sound doctrine fall, like the dew of heaven, from the lips of such an instructor, and are eagerly imbibed by the gratified hearers; improvement in masonic knowledge

rapidly augments, the pupils emulate the Master's accomplishments, and the triumph of virtue and science becomes visible to the world, although mankind are ignorant how the noble attainment has been acquired. So truly is it said, that "the Light shineth in darkness, but the darkness comprehendeth it not."

6. The cloudy canopy illustrated.

In all communications which the Creator has been graciously pleased to make with the creature, he has been enveloped in a cloud.¹⁵ Hence our Lodge is figuratively said to be covered with the clouds of heaven, because a cloud is the acknowledged emblem of that glorious Being, whose all-seeing eye inspects our actions, and whose aid we implore in all our undertakings. In the early history of the Jewish nation, we find God appearing in a cloud, because, as he himself declared by his prophet Moses, the people saw no manner of similitude on the day that the Lord spake unto them in Horeb out of the midst of the fire;¹⁷ for he would not shew himself to them under any specific figure, lest they should make an idol of the same form, and worship it.¹⁸ But the appearance of the Lord in a cloud had been adopted from the earliest times,—in the garden of Eden,¹⁹—at the sacrifice of Abraham,²⁰—at the Burning Bush,²¹—at the deliverance of the Children of Israel from their Egyptian bondage it was most remarkable; for at that period the cloud directed them through the Red Sea, and attended them during their journeyings in the wilderness, and was intended as a visible manifestation of the Divine presence, and a token that Jehovah²² was at hand to render them

¹⁵ Consult Lev. xvi. 2.; Lam. iii. 44.; and Ps. civ. 1, 2, 3.

¹⁶ Deut. iv. 15.

¹⁷ Cat. ex. Decr. Conc. Trid. p. 394. See also Syn. Nic. 2. act. 3. p. 184. a Theod. Patr. Hierosol.

¹⁸ Gen. iii. 24. compared with Ezek. i. 4.

¹⁹ Gen. xv. 17.

²⁰ Ex. iii. 2. "There is a convent and church on Mount Sinai, according to Pococke; and a chapel on Horeb, called the Chapel of the Bush, which they say grew where a white marble slab is now placed under the altar; into which no one enters without first taking off his shoes." (Desc. of the East. vol. 1. p. 150.)

²¹ In this instance the Deity is said to be in the cloud, under the name of Jehovah; and was none other than the Redeemer of mankind, who is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. The pillar of a cloud which preceded the Israelites on the above occasion, is said by ancient writers to represent Christ in many respects. He is the sacred pillar that sup-

assistance in all cases of difficulty and danger. Again, the Deity was shrouded in a cloud over the tabernacle; and at that sublime period when the law was delivered to Moses;—at the dedication also of Solomon's Temple—and when God discomfited the idols of Egypt.²³ This was the Divine Shekinah vouchsafed to the prophet Isaiah; and declared by St. John to be the actual glory of Jesus Christ the Saviour of mankind.²⁴ And we may consider further, that his human body was the ark of the Christian covenant, over which the Shekinah appeared in the cave at Bethlehem in the form of a supernatural star in the East; which hence is placed in the centre of our Lodges; again, at his baptism by St. John, as a celestial dove surrounded by a shining cloud of glory; and again, at his transfiguration and ascension, when a cloud at length received him, and he returned to his seat in heaven, which is also in a cloud; there to remain as our intercessor till the day of Judgment, when he shall again appear in a cloud to pass the final sentence on mankind.

The cloudy canopy, then, is a symbol of heaven. There our thoughts and affections centre, while we are engaged in the moral and scientific investigations which constitute the business of the Lodge. The central Star illuminates this picture of the firmament; and opens to the contemplative eye, the regions of everlasting space, accessible by a Ladder placed on the Holy Volume, containing staves or rounds innumerable to fill up the intervals of those Three Great Steps by which the Mason hopes to ascend to the blessed regions of eternal day. And when he is enabled to achieve the third and last step, which constitutes the summit of the ladder, he figuratively enters into "a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens," veiled from mortal eye by the starry firmament, and symbolized on the Tracing Board by Seven Stars surrounding the silver queen of night.

ports his church; he guides us to eternal life, as to the promised land; for he is the way, the truth, and the life; he opens to us the way of the Red Sea, i. e. by baptism dyed red in his blood. Thus Rupertus says, "*Aperit nobis viam maris rubei, id est, gratiam baptismi sanguine suo rubentia.*" He is both a pillar of fire and of a cloud; or in other words both God and man; and Isaiah plainly says, that Christ is the covering cloud by which we are sheltered from the heat and storms of temptation.

²³ *Isai. xix. 1.*

²⁴ *John xii. 41.*

A right application of the several clauses contained in this Lecture, cannot fail to convince the unprejudiced enquirer, not only of the harmonious proportions of a Masons' Lodge, but also of the order and beauty arising from the general principles of the institution. Here we see Wisdom standing in the East to observe the rising of the sun, that he may commence the labour of instructing and improving the brethren in morals and science; Strength in the opposite quarter to support, by virtue of his influence, the lessons which Wisdom imparts; and when the setting sun proclaims the approach of night, to close the Lodge by command, after seeing that every brother has his due; and Beauty in the South, to mark the sun at his meridian, that the workmen may enjoy a just proportion of rest from their labours. To perfect the arrangement, the efficiency of these three Pillars is augmented by subordinate officers, ready to disseminate their commands amongst the brethren, and to see that they are punctually obeyed; while an attentive band stand round in respectful silence, clothed in the badge of innocence, to the honour and antiquity of which the aristocratic orders of the Golden Fleece and Roman Eagle afford no parallel. Inspired by the great moral truths which form the subject of the Master's lecture—

We cheerfully labour in hill or in dale;
At Moriah's fam'd mount, or Jehoshaphat's vale,
And whene'er 'tis High Twelve with due order regale.

No noise, no disorder, no riot we know,
But strictest decorum and harmony show;
Whilst the Graces on each do their favours bestow.

While the sea ebbs and flows, or the stars shed their light,
Till all nature dissolve like the visions of night;
So long will true brothers in friendship unite.

Foots.

LECTURE XI.

ON THE CEREMONIES OF OPENING, CLOSING, LABOUR, AND REFRESHMENT.

Sweet fellowship from envy free,
Friendly converse of brotherhood;
The Lodge's lasting cement be,
Which has for ages firmly stood.
A Lodge thus built, for ages past
Has lasted, and shall ever last.

Masonic Song.

THE rites and ceremonies of Freemasonry form the distinctive peculiarity by which it is separated from every other institution. In their nature they are simple—in their end instructive. They excite a very high degree of curiosity and surprise in a newly initiated brother, and create an earnest desire to investigate their meaning, and to become acquainted with their object and design. It requires, however, both serious application, and untiring diligence, to ascertain the precise nature of every ceremony which our ancient brethren saw reason to adopt in the formation of an exclusive system, which was to pass through the world, unconnected with the religion or politics of all times, and of every people amongst whom it should flourish and increase. But the assiduous Mason, with the assistance of an intelligent Master in the chair, will not fail to apply every ordinance of the Craft to his own personal advantage.

In this Lecture we approach a subject of overwhelming interest to the Free and Accepted Mason. While expatiating on the routine business of Masonry, as transacted within the tyled recesses of the Lodge, I hope to make myself intelligible to the brethren, without drawing

aside the veil which conceals hidden things from the gaze of uninitiated persons.

OPENING.

The first business which occupies the brethren at their stated meetings is, what is technically called Opening the Lodge. It is a solemn and imposing rite, and strongly fixes the attention of every serious Mason. At the well known signal, every officer repairs to his station, and the brethren prepare to execute, with alacrity, the orders of the Master, in silence and submission. The ceremony is then commenced with that venerable simplicity which always characterises the business of Masonry; and forms an interesting introduction to the fascinating exercise of its duties. This beautiful spectacle has been the subject of just and merited panegyric. In the excellent forms prescribed by our ancestors, the brethren are reminded of their dependance on the Almighty Architect of the Universe for every blessing they enjoy. A regular series of ancient landmarks are rehearsed, without a knowledge of which, no person can esteem himself a Mason, or be admitted into a strange Lodge.

These general heads are of the utmost importance, and cannot be dispensed with, but at the hazard of subverting the foundation, and destroying the beneficent principles of Masonry. Every officer is made acquainted with his duty, and seriously impressed with the importance attached to his situation. It is impossible for a Mason to be inattentive to these sublime transactions; and while his heart glows with the sacred fire of benevolence to his species, and overflows with gratitude to the great Author of his being, his devotion is excited by a short and fervent prayer, breathed in the true spirit of masonic philanthropy. The eye is directed to that lucid object which forms the central point of every Mason's hope; and the mind derives life and vigour from those luminous beams which irradiate the operations, and form the celestial covering of every masonic Lodge.

LABOUR.

The true intention of the Speculative Mason's labour, is the exercise of the faculties, and the improvement of the mind. By attaining perfection in this noble art, we

hope to construct an edifice which shall be durable as the heavens—lasting as eternity ; whence we may arrive, when our masonic course is terminated by death, at “a building not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” The Master, assisted by the Senior Warden, lays the chief corner stone of a beautiful fabric, to which every brother, according to his ability, cheerfully contributes his active co-operation. As the work advances, a regular series of illustrations are furnished by the Master, or by brethren duly qualified to instruct ; which contain the strongest incentives to virtue and morality ; while the mind imperceptibly imbibes a rational system of ethics, calculated to expand the faculties, and progressively to advance the diligent enquirer to a reliance on a superior power for consolation, when the world refuses the balm of comfort to assuage the sorrows incident to mortality.

All the illustrations of Masonry, whether symbolical or preceptive, whether legendary or scientific, tend to improve the mind and consecrate the affections to virtue and morality. If we consider the system as a whole, or its constituent parts in detail, all and each proclaim and inculcate the sacred duties which we owe to God, our neighbour, and ourselves ; and it is the habitual practice of those duties which constitutes the character of a good and worthy Mason. In this bond, Masons are linked together by the strongest ties and obligations ; and the chain of social relations cannot be broken by time, distance, or calamity.

On these considerations, the points of Masonry have a most important reference. The practice of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, forms the basis of our temporal felicity. We are instructed by the Chief Point to be contented with the station assigned to us by a benevolent providence, to cultivate peace and tranquillity, and to be ever ready to communicate the same measure of happiness to others, which animates our own bosoms. There are many ways of exciting sensations of happiness in the heart of our brother. And principally by courtesy and kindness. When the desire of inspiring feelings of pure delight is perfectly sincere—when love is without dissimulation—success is certain. On the state and construction of our own mind, depend, in a great measure,

the friendship and good-will of those amongst whom we live. If we be distant and reserved, cold or ceremonious, the example will have its effect on our friends; and a free and social intercourse will be obstructed by suspicion and distrust.

Harshness of manner and of language, can never succeed in securing respect or eliciting gratitude, even for actual benefits. Men are apt to indulge a morbid disposition to imagine themselves slighted or despised; for, in the very lowest stations of life, individuals may be found who are so exceedingly sensitive, that an ungracious word—nay, even the tone of voice in which kind expressions are uttered, or the look by which they are accompanied, will be more than sufficient to counterbalance the presumed obligation arising out of a benefit conferred. While, on the contrary, an open and generous carriage, gracious looks, and kind and gentle language, accompanying acts of courtesy and beneficence, cannot fail to inspire a reciprocal confidence, which will be equally beneficial to the giver and to the receiver, and while we thus convey happiness to others, its peace is abundantly returned into our own bosoms.

The Principal Point of Masonry is three-fold, and comprises the exalted virtues of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Brotherly Love is the bond by which Masons are united, without reference to those artificial distinctions which exist amongst mankind, and separate them into an infinite diversity of grades and classes, each urging its peculiar claim to notice. This virtue is so natural to the human heart, that it has always been *professed*, even amidst the pollutions of the Spurious Freemasonry, and the debasement of ignorance and barbarism. If we search the annals of powerful states and empires, or penetrate the wilds and deserts of savage nations, where religion is unknown, we shall find the philosopher and the barbarian alike boasting of the practice of brotherly love. But in their estimation, what was it? I am afraid it was only another name for some undefined feeling nearly allied to hatred. Brotherly Love, based on the principles of a false faith, would be incapable of comprehending the nature of the bright system from which it was copied. The adherents of a Spurious Freemasonry rejected the doctrine of Brotherly

Love, as a sentiment which included all created beings within its limits; and confining it simply to their own immediate connections, esteemed the rest of the world as natural and hereditary foes. It was deemed a lawful point of honour to sweep away, with "the besom of destruction," all who were opposed to the interest or ambition of individuals, and thus this heavenly virtue was sacrificed at the unholy shrine of superstition and impiety.

Such was Brotherly Love under the domination of Spurious Freemasonry. "Famine and pestilence were not more terrible scourges to mankind than a people who were proverbial for this virtue. The proud and boasted principle of friendship, so liberally praised and complimented by pagan philosophy and legislation, had carried destruction and death over half the world; disturbed the tranquillity of harmless provinces, and defaced and depopulated the garden of God. It has been remarked, and I think with much justice, than in proportion to the enthusiasm to which Brotherly Love or Friendship has been carried, has been the virulence of that enmity amongst mankind, by which it has been accompanied. Such is man in a state of nature. Within a particular circle he has been a friend and a brother; without that circle, an enemy, a destroyer, a fury, and a fiend. And then, when most applauded and adored within the contracted sphere of his friendship, most detested and execrated without it;—then when his statues have been rising fastest round him; and the cast brass receiving the history of his honours with busiest industry—then has been the moment when the curses of mankind have been poured, in the most copious shower, upon his head."¹

This prostitution of a most amiable quality of the mind, for which reason afforded no remedy, was corrected by revelation. The Redeemer, knowing that such a principle had produced a mass of evil amongst mankind, determined to exhibit Brotherly Love in an amiable point of view, that the nations of the earth might form an universal brotherhood. His admonitions were, therefore, principally directed to this point: "If ye love them," said he, "which love you, what reward have ye? Do not

¹ Fawcett.

even the publicans the same? But I say unto you, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." With the same intention he answered the question, who is my neighbour? by relating the parable of the good Samaritan; which so impressed the enquirer, that he saw, without a comment, that the general relationship of man is not dissolved by distance, climate, form, or language; but all the world are brothers; and that the hand of mercy ought to be extended to the destitute stranger, as well as to an intimate friend or relation. Nay, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, however diversified by nation, birth, or colour, are superior objects of man's benevolence. And this is precisely the view of Brotherly Love which is taken by our excellent institution. It inculcates love to all mankind, but more particularly to a brother Mason, as a certain indication of uprightness, which is symbolized amongst us by the moveable Jewel which has been assigned to the Junior Warden.

Brotherly Love must be pure both in profession and practice; unwarped by prejudice; unabated amidst calumny, slander, and detraction; filling the heart with pious fervour and holy resolutions; exalting it from earth to heaven; from a perishable mortality to a celestial intercourse with the Source and Essence of love; ennobling the nature of man by the practice of his earthly Freemasonry, till it conducts him to the eternal Grand Lodge, where the celestial system of Light shall confer upon him perfect wisdom and perfect happiness.

Such is the nature of Brotherly Love, as inculcated in a masonic Lodge. Whoever is included in this bond, the same we acknowledge as a brother. We look not at his politics—we enquire not into his religious creed—his riches are dross—his climate or colour perfectly indifferent;—although we know not the country whence he comes, and are totally ignorant of the language which he speaks—if he employ the universal language of Masonry—if he display the Sign and Token of his profession, his faith becomes intelligible, and we fold him to our hearts as a brother. Is he in sorrow? We will bind up his wounds. Is his heart lacerated and bleeding? We will pour in the oil and wine of kindness and sympathy. Is

a worthy brother in pecuniary difficulties? We will relieve his wants and restore his comforts. If he have talent, we will honour it;—if he have none, he is still our brother. Is he a good and virtuous man? We will rejoice at it. Is he immoral? We will draw a veil over his faults, by adopting that distinguishing virtue of our science, which is symbolized by a non-metallic key. For if he have faults—surely he has some virtues; and these we are bound to esteem, let his errors be what they may. This is a lesson which Freemasonry teaches. Charity and Brotherly Love is the foundation and cap stone, the glory and cement of our ancient and honourable institution.

If these principles be strictly inculcated in our Lodges, Freemasonry will become—what it ought ever to be—a beatific vision, leading, through its connection with Christianity, to a Grand Lodge in the skies, where the just exist in perfect bliss to all eternity; where they will be for ever happy with God the Great Architect of the Universe, and dwell to all eternity in the celestial bowers of peace and Brotherly Love.

RELIEF is the next tenet of our profession. This virtue has been already partially illustrated;² but I cannot refrain from adding an extract from that beautiful Lecture which Jesus Christ delivered to his Apostles when he sent them out to evangelize the people. “Heal the sick; cleanse the lepers; raise the dead; cast out devils. Freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses; nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves; for the workman is worthy of his meat. And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And whosoever shall give to drink, unto one of these little ones, a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

Applied to Freemasonry, Relief forms a branch of charity, actually emanating from brotherly love. It was this absorbing characteristic, at the revival of Freemasonry, about the beginning of the eighteenth century,

² Vid. Lect. 2.

which elevated the science to a distinguished rank in England, and induced the formation of Lodges in every part of the world. This emanation of the Deity advanced the claims of Freemasonry to the favourable consideration of mankind, by the noble institutions which practically exemplified its theories and doctrines. These institutions placed Freemasonry on the broad and permanent basis of public utility, without any reference to the genial and beneficial tendency of the rites and ceremonies, morals and science, which are practised and enforced in the tyled recesses of the Lodge.

The widow's tear—the orphan's cry—
 All wants—our ready hands supply,
 As far as power is given.
 The naked clothe—the prisoner free—
 These are thy works sweet Charity,
 Revealed to us from Heaven.

It was requisite that Freemasonry should assume a high position amongst the institutions of the country, at a time when, by the re-establishment of its Grand Lodge on a firm basis, public attention was called to the order, and its general utility excited discussion amongst scientific and thinking men. About this period the Duke of Buccleugh proposed the establishment of a general fund of benevolence for the relief of distressed Masons. Local funds of the same description had been long before in active operation amongst the private lodges; but a central fund appeared to promise a more extended usefulness; and its formation placed Freemasonry before the public eye in a new and amiable form. It was soon followed by the establishment of those noble foundations for the children of indigent Brethren, or orphans; one of which sprung from the practical benevolence of the Chevalier Ruspini, and was brought to perfection under the patronage of the Duchess of Cumberland; and the other was subsequently formed under the name of the Royal Masonic Institution for clothing, educating, and apprenticing the sons of worthy deceased Freemasons; both of which are still in active and beneficial operation.

Other institutions, which exemplify the nature of masonic benevolence, have, from time to time, made their appearance amongst us, and are matured by the efficient support of our opulent and wealthy Brethren; for it is

by the union of active zeal, with talent and riches, that great results are generally accomplished. In the present age, the benevolence of the masonic system has been still more strikingly developed. An asylum for aged and decayed Freemasons of good character, and an annuity system for their permanent relief, have been recently projected. The former is in active operation; and there is no doubt but the latter will be extensively supported by the wealthy members of the craft. These charities are jewels of inestimable value in the masonic crown, which emanate from a practical exercise of the best feelings of the human heart; and advantageously display the beauty of the system to which they are attached.

TRUTH is an attribute which involves the peace and welfare of civil society. It has been asserted that the word Truth is the third person singular of the verb *Trow*; and that it was formerly written *troweth*, *trowth*, or *troth*, meaning that one *troweth*, *thinketh*, or *believeth*. However this may be, Truth is essential to the Free and Accepted Mason, and forms a constituent part of the wisdom which is the object of his search, while investigating the principles of the Science; and if he expect to derive any advantage from his masonic studies, he will make the sacred dictates of truth the guide and director of all his actions. If the foundation be thus firm and secure, the superstructure can never be shaken. Pure thoughts, holy desires, and upright actions will clear the way for placid contentment, and the happiness which proceeds from rectitude of intention. To be good men and true is one of the first lessons we are taught in Masonry. On this theme we expatiate, and by its dictates endeavour to regulate our conduct. Hence, while under the influence of this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown amongst us; sincerity and plain dealing are our distinguishing characteristics; whilst the heart and the tongue unite in promoting each other's welfare, and rejoicing in each other's prosperity.

THE POINT WITHIN A CIRCLE occupies a conspicuous situation on the Tracing Board of an Entered Apprentice. And deservedly; for it embodies a series of useful lessons, which, if reduced to practice in our commerce with the world, cannot fail to make us wiser and better. This significant emblem takes its origin from the garden of

Eden, which was circular—the trees of life and knowledge being placed in the centre, symbolical of the divine Omnipresence, the centre being everywhere, and the circumference no where. The perpendicular parallel lines, represented by these two trees, signified *justice* and *mercy*, which were practically exemplified at the unhappy fall of our first parents.³

The primitive explanation of this symbol did not differ very widely from the elucidation still used in the lectures of Masonry. The circle referred to *eternity*, and the point to *time*; for the purpose of shewing that time was only a point compared with eternity, and equidistant from all parts of its infinitely extended circumference; because eternity occupied the same indefinite space before the creation of our system, as it will do when it is reduced to its primitive nothing.

The application of the circle and perpendicular parallel lines amongst us, refers to the duty of circumscribing our wishes and actions within such prudent limits as to escape the severity of God's *justice* untempered by *mercy*. To speak in the technical language of the old lectures, the point represents an individual Brother; and the circle, the boundary line of his duty to God and man; beyond which he is enjoined never to suffer his passions, prejudices, or interests to betray him. The circle is supported by two perpendicular parallel lines, representing the two St. Johns,⁴ who were perfect parallel in Masonry. On the vertex rests the Book of the Holy Law, which points out the whole duty of Man, and supports the theological Ladder, the top of which reaches to the heavens. In going round this circle, we must necessarily touch on these two lines, as well as on the sacred volume; and while a Mason keeps himself thus circumscribed, it is impossible that he can materially err.

The ORIGINAL SIGNS of Masonry are quadruple, and taken from the perfect square or cube which is constructed of four principles, viz., a point, a line, a superficies, and a solid; referring to the four elements.⁵ In the true

³ See Signs and Symbols, Lect. 9.

⁴ The union Lectures have rejected this interpretation, and substituted Moses and Solomon; but I must confess that I prefer the prior arrangement.

⁵ The Greeks had a very extraordinary compound hieroglyphic to

Freemasonry this is denominated Tetragrammaton; and in the Spurious system, Tetractys; both referring to the ineffable Name of the Deity. A cube was considered the most perfect of all figures; and therefore the Holy of Holies in the Temple, constructed for the peculiar dwelling place of the Most High, was of that form; and the altars of all nations were a cube either single or double. The Name, however, is expressed in masonic hieroglyphics by four distinct geometrical emblems, as well as by a single quadrilateral figure, viz., an equilateral triangle, a circle, a square, and a double cube. The triangle represents eternity, science, and power. The circle, God's Omnipresence. The square, perfection of happiness, and equal justice. Thus the Pythagoreans said, that the tetrad was the first number evenly even, which is a property of Justice; for, being quadrate, it divides into equals, and is itself equal.⁶ Pythagoras gave this reason for likening the gods to a square, because he believed that quadrangular figures represented the divine essence; signifying pure and immaculate order; for, said he, "rectitude imitateth inflexibility; equality, firm power; for, motion proceedeth from inequality, and rest from equality. The gods, therefore, who are authors in all things of firm consistence, and pure, incontaminate order, and inevitable power, are not improperly represented by the figure of a square."⁷

These principles being established, the propriety of our Four original Signs will be apparent. They are represented by the tassels which decorate the angles of our Entered Apprentice Tracing Board; and refer equally to the four rivers of Paradise, and the four Cardinal Virtues. To illustrate this in a manner which may be intelligible to the Brethren, I would observe, that the palate and throat being the chief seat of irregular appetites, we are instructed by the first Sign to avoid temptation by a proper restraint on our passions; that we

represent the four elements. Juno was depicted as being suspended from the clouds by a chain fastened round her waist; at the upper end of which is a large ring held by the hand of Jupiter, while heavy stones were bound to her feet; and in this situation she hangs over the waters of the sea. Juno herself represented the *air*; her chain the *fire*; and the weights *water* and *earth*.

⁶ Alex. Aphrod. Metaph. 5.

⁷ Staml. Hist. Phil. vol. 3. p. 75.

may be *temperate* in all our indulgences, and never exceed the boundary line of decency and decorum, under the *penalty* of disobedience, or the violation of those engagements which, as Masons, we have voluntarily assumed.

The breast being the abode of Fortitude, we are taught by the second Sign to suppress the risings of apprehension and discontent; and to endure, with patience, the attacks of adversity or distress, pain or disappointment, rather than induce, by a weak and temporizing compliance with the persuasions of friends, or the denunciations of enemies, the bitter stings of remorse which must inevitably result from a betrayal of the secrets with which we have been intrusted on the faith of a solemn obligation.

The third Sign contains a lesson equally striking and useful. Prudence is the wisdom of the heart, and prompts cool and deliberate actions. Amidst all the various and chequered scenes which are incident to human nature, consideration and reflection will enable us to avoid the snares with which we are continually beset. Temptation may be powerful and overwhelming—trouble may assail us on every side—despondency may add the weight of its terrors to crown the attack upon our integrity with success; yet with the aid of this powerful Sign, we may, by the exercise of Prudence, overcome them all, and rise triumphant from the ordeal, like silver seven times tried in the fire.

The fourth Sign recommends integrity of principle, by referring to our first appearance on the sacred floor of the Lodge—well and worthily recommended—regularly proposed and approved—freeborn, of mature age, sound judgment, and strict morality; or, in other words, the symbol of a just and upright man. It denotes, therefore, the duty of universal Justice and good-will amongst mankind; and points to that golden rule of our own scriptures—do unto others as you would have them do to you.

It appears, therefore, that the virtues which proceed from these characteristic Signs, are Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice. From the Master's chair, these sublime and useful qualities are recommended and eulogised in beautiful and impressive language, that the judgment may be enlightened and the heart improved.

Thus restrained by the salutary efficacy of Temperance, strengthened in our minds by the influence of Fortitude, instructed by Prudence, and guided by Justice into the path of piety and peace, we may pass through this world with the firmness of a rock on the sea-shore, unshaken in mind, from the security of our foundation, though storms and tempests eternally operate to undermine our virtue.

Such dissertations constitute the delightful Labours of the brethren when assembled in a closely tyled Lodge. An ardent desire exists in every breast to improve the intellectual faculties, and make a proficiency in that sublime knowledge which is allied to virtue; and links devotional feelings to a correct estimate of our own hearts. The Spurious Freemasonry possessed some rudiments of this virtue; and the inscription, KNOW THYSELF, appeared on the portal of Apollo's temple; and was ascribed to his oracle at Delphi. It was, indeed, a precept which attained great celebrity amongst the philosophers of antiquity. But, being applied to an unimportant purpose, it became useless in producing even the happiness of this world, much less of that which is to come. Masonry teaches us to know ourselves, by communicating the nature of our moral situation, and uniting this knowledge with our respective duties to God and our neighbour. Of these requisites to human or divine happiness, the Spurious Freemasons were lamentably ignorant.

To accomplish the important task of self-knowledge with perfect success, our sublime science instructs us to abstract ourselves from the world, and to consider our situation as free and responsible agents, by adverting to the purity of the science of Light, as practised by our first parents in the garden of Eden before their unhappy fall. Comparing this state of perfection with our proneness to indulge in such pursuits as nature rather than grace would suggest, we lament the melancholy defection from primitive innocence which sin has introduced, and endeavour to recover it by a conformity with the eternal laws of righteousness laid down in the Book which covers the pedestal of our Lodges; by examining the grounds and reasons of our faith, and making them the guide and directors of our actions: It is by virtue of such a process that the Labour of Freemasonry is converted

to a good account; and the genial affections thus excited in the heart, produce the fruits of virtue, humility, and obedience.

The Labour of Masonry ripens the faculties and quickens them into action. Many a Brother, who has sustained a subordinate part on the great theatre of the world, has had his dormant powers called into operation in a masonic Lodge; and abilities have been elicited where they were not previously supposed to exist. Instances of this kind are frequent amongst us, and our social meetings have thus been elevated into an arena for the exercise and improvement of talent, which would otherwise have remained for ever inactive. The magic touch of Freemasonry has given the first impulse to a just and honourable exertion, whose fruits, applied in accordance with the precepts of the Craft, have excited distinction, honour, and reward. We have reason, therefore, to be proud of an institution which is capable of producing these blooming fruits. And it is owing to the unexampled discipline of the Order, that such inherent excellence is permitted to display its powers. Here native modesty is encouraged, genius fostered, and intellect improved. The discussions of masonic labour afford ample scope for every diversity of talent; and that man's mind must be constructed in an extraordinary mould, which can find nothing in the lectures of Freemasonry to excite attention, or to interest and improve the moral faculties of his nature. The philosophy of Freemasonry has, for its basis, the strong pillar of Truth; and its superstructure is the glory of God. In our moral or scientific, technical or ceremonial pursuits, there is always something which cannot fail to attract the notice, and captivate the affections of every initiated candidate, if his heart be susceptible of beneficent impressions. I have myself initiated many persons who were very unpromising, and yet Freemasonry has touched and enlightened them, and genial fruits, both as Masons and men, have been the happy consequence. Nor am I saying too much when I affirm, that these results, in a greater or less degree, will always accompany initiation, where a Lodge is conducted with talent and discretion, and the Landmarks of the Order carefully preserved and inflexibly maintained.

* Much, however, depends on the chief officer in the

East. It is his province to nurture and teach the budding genius to expand. The labour of Masonry is in his hands, and it is his duty to lead the brethren, by degrees and prudently, into all the depths of masonic research. For this purpose he must judiciously appropriate the several portions of his work to the capacities of the brethren. The Apprentice cannot be expected to perform the business of the Fellow Craft or the Master Mason; and, even in each class, much discrimination is necessary, when mental improvement is the object, and spiritual illumination the grand design. The Tracing Board lies before him, teeming with such moral plans and excellent sketches, that, were we conversant therein, and adherent thereto, it would bring us to a building not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. From this abundant store, the worthy Master selects his materials with judgment, and applies them in the true spirit of universal Masonry, to the edification of his hearers. He expatiates with eloquence and truth on the objects within his view. He traces the rough ashler through all its various forms, till, under the workmanship of the expert Fellow Crafts, it assumes the square die, or cube highly wrought and polished, and incapable of trial and proof, except by the square of God's word, and the unerring compass of an irreproachable conscience.

Above all, the expert Master carefully avoids the frequent repetition of dry technicalities and monotonous forms of speech. Desirable as an uniform mode of working may be, the language may be varied, though the ancient Landmarks ought to be carefully preserved. Our ceremonies and discipline, science and morals, our symbols, tokens, and machinery, are so various and diffusive, that no Master of a Lodge can be at a loss for a subject of instruction, which would edify the brethren and augment the interest that warms and animates them, amidst the miscellaneous topics which our authorised lectures afford.

Twelve monthly lectures would complete the Master's year; and the punctuality of their delivery would ensure a full and regular attendance of members, increase the popularity and strength of the Lodge, and, by a natural consequence, ensure the efficacy of the order, in promo-

ting amongst mankind the moral blessings of peace, harmony, and brotherly love.

REFRESHMENT.

When the Lodge is called from Labour to Refreshment, the brethren enjoy the blessings of social harmony, without that confusion and irregularity which usually characterize all other assemblies. Each brother strives to convey and receive pleasure, and all attempts at sarcasm are promptly discountenanced. In these hours it is that the true Mason will carefully place those guards over the external avenues of his conduct which may contribute to maintain the sovereignty of reason. If these barriers be removed, and Masonry be made subservient to intemperance or excess, the duties of the Craft become neglected, and the noblest faculties of the mind enslaved. To this cause the contempt and odium which are often reflected on the institution may be truly attributed. He who is possessed of a laudable ambition to practise Freemasonry in its purity, and to enter into an exemplification of its true nature and design, will consider these hours as subordinate to the business of the Lodge, and calculated to no other end than to enliven the mind, and to add a cheerful lustre to the grave pursuits enjoined by the immemorial usages of the Craft.

CLOSING.

In the performance of a ceremony so solemn and momentous as the closing of a Masons' Lodge, every member has a lively interest. At the usual report, preceded by an enquiry involving the best interests of Masonry, the brethren are again reminded what is the chief care of a Mason. The avenues to the Lodge are carefully inspected by the meridian officer, whose knowledge and fidelity have entitled him to the confidence of the brethren, and after he has publicly proclaimed the security of the Lodge, the business of closing proceeds. The particular duties of the leaders of the respective bands of craftsmen are rehearsed. At the command of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden performs his duty, after seeing that the brethren have received their due proportion of masonic instruction and improvement; and the whole

concludes with an impressive address to the brethren on their respective duties as men and Masons, when pursuing their accustomed avocations in the world; and with a fervent petition to the Deity supplicating his blessings on the fraternity, wheresoever dispersed under the wide canopy of heaven.

Such is the high ground which Masonry assumes from the extreme purity of the system. We are bound, therefore, to reflect that as our station is exalted, so ought our conduct to be exemplary; for the world regards us with a scrutinizing eye; and, which is of more consequence, we are under the constant inspection of the All-Seeing Eye of God. If we would adorn the system which is our pride and boast, nay, if we would not expose it to contempt, we must discharge the relative and social duties of life with a precision at least equal to the most virtuous of our fellow-men; for, as the science we profess may be ornamented by our rectitude of demeanour, so will it infallibly be disgraced, should we be found deficient in any of the obligations which are incumbent on us, in our respective characters of husband and father, citizen and subject, neighbour and friend.

I address myself plainly to the brethren at large on the subject of morals, because Freemasonry is defined as "a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols." It is indeed a system which is, or ought to be, the guardian of every virtue. I am anxious, therefore, for the extension of its principles. I would have every good man become a Mason, from a solemn conviction of its purity, and its decided influence over the moral character of its members, evinced by their propriety of conduct, their industry, sobriety, and public usefulness. I would have their Faith, and Hope, and Charity, like the pentalpha, or triple triangle of Masonry,* mutually assist each other, and combine to sup-

* Stakeley, in his *Itinerary*, (vol. i. p. 148.) has the following curious remark on this figure. "One would be apt to suspect that they (the Druids) had a regard to the sacred symbol and mystical character of medicine, which, in ancient times, was thought of no inconsiderable virtue; this is a pentagonal figure formed from a triple triangle, called by the name of *Hygeia*, because it may be resolved into the Greek letters that compose the word. The Pythagoreans used it among their disciples as a mystical symbol denoting *health*; and the cabalistic Jews and Arabians had the same fancy. It is the pentalpha, or pentagrammon, among the

port the rectitude of their professions; and I anticipate that the day is not far distant when Lodges shall be formed in every important town; and the members increase in ample proportion, as mankind behold the fraternity to be wiser and better than those who have not had the advantage of masonic teaching.

With these hopes and anticipations before me, can I be too strenuous in recommending the Free and Accepted Mason to let his light shine before men, that they may glorify the Father which is in heaven? Shall I omit a single opportunity of furthering the interests of Masonry, by raising my voice against the indiscretion of those who are satisfied with a mere profession of masonic zeal, without uniting with it the practice of masonic virtue? No, my brethren in the mystic tie, let it not be said by the uninitiated, that you are deficient in those practical characteristics of the Order, which, when firmly and systematically adhered to, cannot fail to distinguish you from the rest of mankind. And do not forget, that while you cultivate the perfection of your fraternal duties, you will, at the same time, improve in Christian ethics, you will fear God and love your neighbour, you will grow in grace and in the knowledge of that pure system of religion which is cemented by the blood of an atoning Saviour, and, if you persevere to the end, you will receive the reward of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Egyptians; the mark of prosperity. Antiochus Soter, going to fight against the Galatians, was advised in a dream to bear this sign upon his banner, whence he obtained a signal victory."

LECTURE XII.

THE BEAUTIES OF FREEMASONRY EXEMPLIFIED; AND ITS PECULIAR CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES SHEWN TO BE JUDICIOUSLY SELECTED, RATIONALLY MAINTAINED, AND HIGHLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE INSTITUTION GENERALLY, AND TO EVERY BROTHER IN PARTICULAR WHO IS WELL VERSED IN THEIR MORAL AND SYMBOLICAL REFERENCE.

Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard;

Spikenard with saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices;

A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.

Sol. Song. iv. 13, 14, 15.

THE system of Freemasonry as now practised, combines the Speculative and Operative divisions, as they were reunited at the building of King Solomon's Temple. By the latter I would not be understood to mean the mechanical business of a bricklayer or a mason, but the study of the liberal sciences, including geometry and architecture. The morality of the First Degree, blended with the science and doctrines developed in the Second and Third, constitute the peculiarity, as well as the perfection of the system. If Freemasonry were merely an institution for the propagation of moral truth, it must long ago have yielded to a superior teacher—the pulpit. Had it been confined exclusively to science, a common Literary Society would have answered all its purposes. It is the *dulce et utile* mixed together—it is the beauty of the arrangement that convinces the understanding and fascinates the heart.

The hours of labour are marked by pursuits which dignify and adorn the mind. The W. M. expatiates with clearness and perspicuity on the beauties of geometry, astronomy, and other liberal arts and sciences, with their reference and application to the designs of Providence in the creation of man. The imagination luxuriates on his Lecture, and the heart is improved, while the ideas expand under a course of training which blends amusement with instruction; and all his illustrations tend to inculcate a knowledge of those three great branches of masonic morality and true religion—the duties we owe to God, our neighbour, and ourselves.

In the hours of Refreshment, science is not abandoned. Music and poetry take the lead and contribute their aid to enliven the graver pursuits of our more serious hours.

Our excellent and lamented Brother Preston, (whom I always quote with pleasure, because he was one of my first instructors in the science of Freemasonry,) with equal brevity and truth, thus delineates the design of our lectures. Of the First he says: "In this lecture Virtue is painted in the most beautiful colours, and the duties of morality are strictly enforced. Here we are taught such wise and useful lessons as prepare the mind for a regular advancement in the principles of knowledge and philosophy; and these are imprinted on the memory by lively and sensible images, well calculated to influence our conduct in the proper discharge of the duties of social life. The Second Degree extends the plan, and comprehends a more diffusive system of knowledge. Practice and theory are united to qualify the industrious Mason to share the pleasures which an advancement in the art necessarily affords. Listening with attention to the opinions of experienced men on important subjects, the mind of the Craftsman is gradually familiarized to useful instruction; and he is soon enabled to investigate truths of the utmost concern in the general transactions of life." Of the Third, he says, that "In twelve sections, of which this lecture consists, every circumstance that respects government and system, ancient lore and deep research, curious invention and ingenious discovery, is collected and accurately traced. To a complete knowledge of this Lecture few attain; but it is an infallible

truth, that he who acquires by merit the mark of pre-eminence to which this degree entitles him, receives a reward which amply compensates for all his past diligence and assiduity."

From these general remarks let us take a brief view of some of the beauties of the Order; for the impossibility of noticing every point, part, and secret by which we are distinguished, will be apparent from the preceding observations.

The ceremonies of Freemasonry are numerous and significant; although, if considered abstractedly, they are of little value, except as they contribute their aid to impress upon the mind a rich series of scientific beauties and moral truths. And I will undertake to affirm, that the system of Freemasonry, complicated as it is throughout the whole routine of its consecutive Degrees, and abounding with appropriate ceremonies, does not contain a single rite that is barren of intellectual improvement; and they all bear a reference to similar usages contained in the Holy Book that has been revealed from heaven.

Out of the numerous and fruitful store of rites and observances contained in this noble system, I shall select a few for illustration; that every enquirer may be informed of the source whence they are derived, and convinced that they have been conceived in a spirit of universal benevolence, and are practised with the design of making us wiser and better men.

1. Brief sketch of the three principal Steps or Degrees.

Like all other sciences, Freemasonry is progressive, and can only be acquired by time, patience, and a sedulous application to elementary principles, as a preparation for the higher and more abstruse points of doctrine, which convey pre-eminence in the superior Degrees. And that no mistake may arise respecting the qualification of candidates, tests have been instituted, to mark at every step their progress in the preliminary Degrees, before they be admitted to a more exalted place in the Lodge.

The Three Degrees of Masonry, as they were probably arranged by the Grand Masters at the building of the Temple, might bear a general reference to the three

Orders of the Jewish Priesthood, an arrangement which has also been introduced into the Christian Church. Indeed, this number was universally adopted in every ancient system. Even the Spurious Freemasonry had the same number of Steps. The first consisted of probation, purification, and expiation. The second was called the Lesser Mysteries, into which the candidate *passed* by solemn ceremonies; and also to the third, after a long period of additional trial, which was denominated the Greater Mysteries. These consisted of fearful rites, introductory to a full revelation of all the ineffable doctrines, which he was bound, under an obligation and heavy penalties, never to reveal.

The Essenes who preserved the true Freemasonry from extinction in the dark ages, which preceded the advent of Christ, admitted only three degrees; and the probationary term extended to one whole year. If, during this period, the candidate gave satisfactory proofs of his temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice, he was accepted, and received the first Step or Degree; in which noviciate he remained another year before he was passed to the Second Step; and it was not until the expiration of three years that he was admitted to a full participation in the secrets and benefits of the society. And even here the utmost precaution was used. The candidate was previously bound by the most solemn vows to keep inviolably secret the mysteries of his Order, and to act upon and abide by the ancient usages and established customs of the fraternity. The Brethren distinguished each other, in darkness and in light, by signs and tokens. The most profound silence was imposed at their assemblies; the Lecturer only expounding the tenets of their creed, which were enfolded in a series of allegorical symbols, the rest listening with a grave and solemn attention.

In every civil institution the progress to rank, honour, and distinction, is, in like manner, graduated and slow. In the church, the bar, the army, and navy, and all other social establishments, the candidate for fame must toil through a weary probation, and be content with a slow passage through many preliminary steps, before he can hope to attain the object of his ambition. It is the same in Freemasonry. It has several degrees, which are not

communicated indiscriminately, but are conferred on candidates according to merit and ability.

The very first step taken by a candidate on entering a Masons' Lodge, teaches him the pernicious tendency of deism and infidelity; and shows him that the foundation on which Masonry rests, is the belief and acknowledgment of a Supreme Being, the Creator and Governor of the world; accompanied by a confession that in Him alone a sure confidence can be safely placed to protect his steps in all the dangers and difficulties he may be called on to encounter in his progress through the mazes of good and evil with which this world abounds; assured that if his faith be firmly grounded in that Supreme Being, he can certainly have nothing to fear. In connection with this faith, the First Degree of Masonry teaches him that his actions must be squared by the precepts contained in the Holy Bible, the constant study of which is strongly recommended. It goes on to enforce the practice of the three duties of morality—to God, his neighbour, and himself. It reminds him of the value of time, by an emblem which points out the division of the day into twenty-four equal parts; and the absolute necessity of regularly appropriating certain portions of it to the purposes of labour, rest, and the worship of his Maker, is forcibly impressed upon his mind. It teaches him the Three Theological and the Four Cardinal virtues; connected with which, it points out to him the necessity of cultivating Brotherly Love, the cape stone, the glory, and the cement of the Institution; it incites him to the duty of relieving the necessities of others, with the superfluities of his own substance; and in all places, and on all occasions, to adhere strictly to truth, as one great and effectual means of pleasing God. These are all emanations of the faith which the Candidate professes at his first admission. We have Three Luminaries in our Lodges;—and what do they point out? They refer to the three precepts of Micah the prophet; that, as Masons we ought to do justly in every transaction of life; to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We are clothed in white, as emblematical of the innocence and integrity which ought always to distinguish a Free and Accepted Mason. Our Jewels have all a moral tendency; and there is not a figure, letter,

or character in Masonry but points out some moral or theological duty.

If we pass on to the Second Degree, the first object that strikes us is the symbol of an eternal and self-existent Deity, who will reward or punish us everlastingly, according to our works. In this degree we are solemnly reminded that the All-Seeing Eye of Providence observes our actions, and notes every improper word or thought to produce against us at the day of Judgment. The Star of this Degree points to that supernatural appearance in the heavens which directed the wise men of the East to the place where the Incarnate God was prepared to receive the rich tokens of their adoration.

When the veil of the Third Degree is raised, we are presented with a series of historical facts and ceremonies which illustrate many passages in the Jewish scriptures, and refer to the fundamental truths of our holy religion. It is truly called a sublime degree, for it contains the essence of Purity and Light.

This Degree has a reference to the Christian dispensation, when the day of salvation is more fully revealed; atonement is made for sin; and the Resurrection from the dead plainly communicated and confirmed by the resurrection of Christ from the grave.

The Jewish Law had degenerated into a mass of rottenness and corruption;—piety, which planned the Temple at Jerusalem, was expunged;—the reverence and adoration due to the Divinity, was buried in the filth and rubbish of the world; and religion and morality were scattered to the Four Winds of Heaven. Three Ruffian Nations, from the South, the West, and the East—the Syrians, the Chaldeans, and the Romans—gave in succession this temporary dispensation its death blow; those who sought religion through the wisdom of the ancients were not able to raise her; she eluded their grasp, and their polluted hands were also stretched forth in vain for her restoration. Her Tomb was in the rubbish and filth cast forth from the Temple, and Acacia wove its branches over her monument.¹ In this state of dark-

¹ Freemasonry tells us, in a figure, that the acacia branch shall be severed from its parent stem, and we shall be triumphantly raised from the tomb of transgression, and conveyed by angelic attendants to the

ness and despair, she lay until the Saviour came, instituted the Five Points of Christian Fellowship, and raised her from the dust in which she had been indecently interred, to a more glorious inheritance; to be the means of salvation to generations yet unborn; to unite mankind by the ties of a common Faith and a common Hope, and to produce that perfect and unsullied Charity, which shall have its consummation in glory at the Resurrection of the dead.

2. Freemasonry possesses an universal language. Do you enquire what is its utility? It is for the purpose of enabling a worthy brother in distress to convey his wants and necessities, even though we are ignorant of his vernacular tongue; for thus the stranger and sojourner can freely explain their wishes. Is he surrounded by difficulties? His peculiar distresses are soon made known; and commiseration and relief are promptly administered. By the use of this valuable art we are enabled to hold an intelligible intercourse, and even to maintain a connected conversation with brethren of every clime, and every language. We thus express pleasure and pain, sympathy and disgust, reverence and distress, with many other affections of the mind, even in the most public situations, without attracting notice or exciting curiosity. If a brother, then, should forget himself so far as to be guilty of any public indiscretion, a formidable display of this universal language would restore his recollection and bring him back to virtue. So truly has it been observed, that "however a brother may mistake himself as a man, he has the motive and opportunity of recovery as a Mason."

A knowledge of this invaluable secret—a language of universal application—has saved multitudes of lives in times of war and public discord;—"when shipwreck and misery had overwhelmed them—when robbers had pillaged—when sickness, want, and misery had brought them even to the brink of the grave. In such hard and dismal calamities, the discovery of Masonry has saved them. The discovery of being a brother has stayed the

Grand Lodge above; if we discharge our respective duties here in Faith, and Hope, and Charity, as good Masons and worthy members of the community at large.

savage hand of the conqueror lifted in the field of battle to cut off the captive; has withheld the sword imbrued in carnage and slaughter, and subdued the insolence of triumph, to pay homage to the Craft."²

So efficacious is the universal language of Masonry; and to shew that its benefits are not imaginary, I subjoin two anecdotes, out of the stores which every brother would be able to furnish from his own experience; the former communicated to the Freemasons' Quarterly Review (1835. p. 167,) by Brether Leigh, of Taunton; and the latter by an uninitiated individual under the signature of Alpha. (1836. p. 442.)

"During the late war, a small coasting vessel, trading between Plymouth and Hampshire, returning with a cargo to the former, was suddenly surprised in the evening by a French Privateer, who had taken up her position under one of the bold promontories of the Devonshire coast. The crew of the English vessel, being composed of the captain and two or three persons, could make no resistance to a ship of war, and was taken possession of by the enemy. The French officer who performed that duty, in the course of his overhauling the cargo and papers of his prize, discovered a Master Mason's certificate from the Grand Lodge of England. He demanded of the English captain if he were the individual named in it; and, on receiving an answer in the affirmative, the Frenchman observed, that although he was not himself a Mason, this was a circumstance which he knew would very much interest his commander, and that he must, therefore, go aboard the French ship and inform him of it. Having done so, the French Captain now came aboard his prize, and having satisfied himself that his captive was entitled to his fraternal protection, *by the universal language of Masonry*, proposed to him that if he would give him his word as a man of honour and a Mason, that on his return to Plymouth he would use his best exertions to obtain the release of his (the French Captain's) brother, who was then a prisoner of war in Mill prison, Plymouth, he would give him up his vessel, and allow him to proceed on his voyage. The Englishman, happy to be liberated on terms so truly masonic, made the best of his way to

² Hutch. p. 186.

Plymouth, in which harbour he in a few hours arrived with his cargo and crew. He immediately went ashore, and having assembled the Masters of the Lodges of that part, communicated to them this extraordinary convention. One of the Masters, happening to be employed at that time by the government in the management and supply of the French prison, lost no time in communicating it to the head department in London, and by the next post received an order to complete with dispatch and fidelity an exchange which the French Brother had commenced with so much generosity and confidence. The French prisoner was shortly conveyed by a flag of truce to the shore of his native land."

Alpha thus relates his adventure :—"In the year 1825, I left England for Bogota, in South America. In journeying with a party consisting of eight persons from Carthagena to a small village, called Baramquilla, situated on the banks of the river Magdalena, we were unable to procure mules to carry us to our destination. Application was made to those persons most likely to supply our wants, without effect; they informed us that several persons had been detained there for the same reasons. The following day we redoubled our search, making very liberal offers for the use of the beasts, but it availed us nought. What to do in this predicament we knew not, we were in a most unhealthy place with a burning sun upon us, and last, though not least, tormented almost to death with mosquitoes, without a prospect of being released from these miseries for some weeks. But thanks to Masonry, our troubles were of but short duration, for, in the evening, we chanced to call upon the Alcade of the place, when it was discovered by him that one of our party was a Brother Mason. Judge of our surprise, when he told us that we should all have mules, and be enabled to proceed on our journey the next morning; a promise which he most religiously kept; for, at six o'clock the following day we left the place, with many blessings on the founder of Masonry."

3. We meet on the level and part on the square.

In the open Lodge—Masonry knows no distinctions but those of merit. In the pure language of that sacred volume which is always displayed on the Pedestal, we honour all men, love the brotherhood, fear God, and

honour the Queen. The glitter of pomp, the plumage of grandeur, form, however, no passports to especial commendation, except as they are united with moral worth. In our Lodges the rich and the poor meet together. What is their common Charter? The Lord is the maker of them all.³ It is the mind—the intellect—improved by diligence and industry, that elevates the Free and Accepted Mason to the highest honours of his profession. In the system of Masonry, like that of nature, when the Lodge is open, the badge of innocence assumed, the bond of friendship in active operation, and the Jewel of Equality sparkling in the West; all are on a level;—all are men formed in the image of their Maker. Of noble shape, tall, godlike, and erect. Nature subjects the wealthy to pain, sickness, and death, equally with him who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow. In like manner the Mason, whether rich or poor, is subject to destitution, to helplessness: in both cases, time, in its irresistible progress, brings on the Third Degree—the final catastrophe of life; and Death will have his prey. Sickness approaches without a summons; disease never knocks at the chamber door, or enquires whether he be a welcome guest; death breaks through bolts and bars; he spurns the bribes of the rich, and is deaf to the heart-rending supplications of the poor. Both must repose together on the same lowly bed. The sprig of acacia—that striking emblem of innocence—is rifled from the spot where it grew and flourished, to decorate the crumbling remains of the departed brother; and the draperies of mourning will be alike extended over their place of burial.

From the dust acacias bloom,
High they shoot and flourish free;
Glory's temple is the tomb,
Death is immortality.

With such illustrations in view, Masonry asks the enlightened brother, what is the glory of the world? Is any thing really great, except virtue? Is any thing truly mean and contemptible except vice? "According to the eternal rules of celestial ceremony and precedence," says a celebrated moral writer, "in the sublime and immortal

³ Prov. xiii. 2.

heraldry of nature and of heaven—Virtue takes place of all things. It is the nobility of angels—it is the majesty of God.”⁴ “A king in the Lodge, is reminded, that although a crown may adorn the head, or a sceptre the hand, the blood in his veins is derived from the common parent of mankind, and is no better than that of the meanest subject. The statesman, the senator, and the artist, are there taught equally with others, they are, by nature, exposed to infirmity and disease; and, that an unforeseen misfortune, or a disordered frame, may impair their faculties, and level them with the most ignorant of their species. This checks pride, and excites courtesy of behaviour. Men of inferior talents, who are not placed by fortune in such exalted situations, are instructed to regard their superiors with peculiar esteem when they discover them voluntarily divested of the trappings of external grandeur, and condescending, in the badge of innocence and bond of friendship, to trace wisdom and follow virtue, assisted by those who are of a rank beneath them. Virtue is true nobility, and Wisdom is the channel by which virtue is directed and decayed; Wisdom and Virtue alone, mark distinction amongst Masons.”

Thus, if Masonry read the rich man a lesson of humility, it teaches also to the poor, obedience and gratitude; while it reminds both of their mortality. It inculcates the necessity of practising Brotherly Love, in our onward march from this world to another and a better. The wealthy and the wise are admonished to use their riches and talents for the purpose of cheering and enlightening the poor and ignorant; knowing that it is to their persevering industry and mechanical knowledge that they are indebted for the elegancies and luxuries of life. And both are admonished to make their accounts perfect by deeds of the purest morality and virtue.

In the mechanism of Masonry, the graduated scale of rank is strictly and immutably observed, and subordination is perfect and complete; for its government is despotic. The Master in the East is absolute in his authority over the Brethren of his Lodge. Yet this does not in the least militate against the doctrine of equality, which is inculcated both by precept and example in all the

⁴ *Fawcett*, vol. i. p. 85.

illustrations of Masonry. For it is an authority founded on brotherly love, and exercised in a spirit of kindness and suavity, which is the more effective, as it brings into operation, both with rulers and brethren, supreme and subordinate, the amiable sympathies which spring from fraternal esteem. If the power vested in the Worshipful Master be steadily maintained on the judicious principle of *suaviter in modo*, it will be unnecessary to display the sterner features of *fortiter in re*. In a word, a Masonic Lodge is governed by love, not by fear. And if, in any instance, this officer should so far forget his Master's obligations, as to exercise the despotic power with which he is undoubtedly invested, tyrannically—the bond of union would be violated—the great principles of Masonry would be scattered to the winds of heaven—and the Lodge, how numerous and respectable soever it might be, would soon cease to exist.

But though Masonry thus inculcates the most impartial equality amongst the brethren, while the Lodge is styled, and masonic duties are in progress, it yields to every one his proper rank when the Lodge is closed and the Jewels put away. Honour must be given to whom honour is due. Grades of human rank are necessary to support the framework of society; and Masonry, which is Order personified, cements the social system.

Order is heaven's first law, and this confess,
Some are and must be greater than the rest. Pope.

This is one of the peculiarities of Freemasonry. We meet on the Level and part on the Square. Is it not an amiable regulation? In our intercourse with the world, in the courtesies which we exchange with our species, a worthy Brother Mason is preferred to any other connection. Freemasonry is a science, universal as the Deity we invoke at the very first step of our initiation. It is a chain of affection where the whole brotherhood is linked in the strictest bonds of amity and friendship; and it teaches the incumbent duties which we owe to each other, and to ourselves, in every state of life from the highest to the lowest grades. In whatever station our lot may be cast, whether we move in those magic circles which circumscribe the society of princes, and the great ones of the earth, or whether we occupy the lower, and

more retired grades, we have an incumbent duty to perform; and it is on the discharge of that duty, including benevolence and protection on the one hand, and humanity and gratitude on the other, that our future lot will be determined in the day when the Grand Architect of the Universe shall make up his Jewels.

4. The avocations of Masonry are regulated by the mutation of the heavenly bodies.

The Master opens the Lodge at sunrise, with solemn prayer; the Junior Warden calls the men from labour when the sun attains its meridian height; and the Senior Warden closes the Lodge with prayer at sunset; when the labours of our ancient brethren ended. The great luminary of creation rises in the East to open the day, with a mild and genial influence, and all nature rejoices in the appearance of his beams. He gains his meridian in the South, invigorating all things with the perfection of his ripening qualities. With declining strength he sets in the West to close the day, leaving mankind at rest from their labours. This is a type of the three most prominent stages in the life of man, infancy, manhood, and old age. The first characterised by the blush of innocence, pure as the tints which gild the eastern portals of the day. The heart rejoices in the unsuspecting integrity of its own unblemished virtues, nor fears deceit, because it knows no guile. Manhood succeeds; the ripening intellect arrives at the meridian of its powers, while, at the approach of old age, his strength decays, his sun is setting in the West; and, enfeebled by sickness or bodily infirmities, he lingers on till death finally closes his eventful day, and happy is he, if the setting splendours of a virtuous life gild his departing moments with the gentle tints of hope, and close his short career in peace, harmony, and Brotherly Love.⁵

This is the model on which the brethren are admonished in the Lodge to conduct their own private affairs. If the day, like the Lodge, open and close with prayer, the Deity, in all his dispensations, both of mercy and justice, will ever be present to their recollection. And prayer is the key that unlocks the gates of heaven. In this angelic exercise our thoughts and aspirations ascend to

⁵ See my Ant. of Mas. p. 35.

the throne of grace ; and piety and holiness become habitual to the soul. If we look into the starry firmament, and behold Orion rising in the South, clothed in gigantic majesty,—if we contemplate “the sweet influences” of the Pleiades, Arcturus, and the Wain ; what are they but so many speaking evidences of His immortal power and goodness, who contrived, created, and upholds the vast machine of nature ? and all those myriads of brilliant orbs that roll over our heads, form a bright blaze of eternal and intelligible Masonry. The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. The reflections arising from such contemplations expand the mind, by unfolding the secrets of the skies, which are a sealed book to the ignorant or indifferent observer.

What a range of sublimity does a survey of the heavenly bodies afford ? How is the mind lost in the immensity and magnificence displayed in the spacious firmament on high ? How do the affections soar beyond the trifling concerns of this short and transitory life—absorbed in the vast idea of Omnipotence ?

I have been much pleased with a view of the immensity of the creation, which appears in the “Christian Almanack” for the present year. The writer says : “Some astronomers have computed that there are not less than seventy-five millions of suns in the universe. The fixed stars are all suns, having, like our sun, numerous planets revolving round them. The solar system, or that to which we belong, has about thirty planets, primary and secondary, belonging to it. The circular field of space which it occupies is in diameter three thousand six hundred millions of miles, and that which it controls much greater. The sun which is our nearest neighbour is called Sirius, distant from our sun about twenty-two billions of miles. Now, if all the fixed stars are as distant from each other as Sirius is from our sun, or if our solar system be the average magnitude of all the systems of the seventy-five millions of suns, what imagination can grasp the immensity of creation ? Who can survey a plantation containing seventy-five millions of circular fields, each ten billions of miles in diameter ? Such, however, is one of the plantations of Him who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand—meted out the heavens with a span—comprehended the dust of the earth in a

measure—and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance.” This, for a speculation, appears immense, but it forms only a point in the vast idea of universal space, which the human mind is altogether incompetent to grasp; for, who shall attempt to place a limit to the designs of Omnipotence?

The study of this subject, which forms a part of the Fellow Craft’s Lecture, prepares the mind for the contemplation of a future world, and elevates our thoughts to the great central emblem, whose sacred initial character, surrounded by a blaze of glory, recalls our minds from the work to the Architect, from the science to its mysterious symbols.

And what reference has the situation of the Lodge? Why is it placed due East and West? The tyro in Masonry will answer the question. But this should not only be a station of order and science, but it should also be a station of seriousness and devotion. A Masons’ Lodge, should be a Company of Masons, who should behold the rising and setting of the sun with piety, with gratitude, and with devotion! It should be an assembly, where the ignorant are taught Wisdom, where the wanton are taught sobriety, where the dissolute are reclaimed, and where the unruly are influenced to perform all the important duties of religious obedience. As the sun riseth in the East to enlighten the day, so the Master of the Lodge should stand in the East to enlighten with true Wisdom his masonic Companions, and guide all his Fellow Craftsmen to work out their salvation with fear and trembling! As the sun setteth in the West to close the day, so the Wardens of the Lodge should stand in the West to close the labours of the Lodge, and see that none go away, not only not dissatisfied, but also to see that none go away unimproved in moral virtue, and in pious resolutions. This is the perfection of Masonry.*

5. The propriety and decorum of processional movements considered.

Processions may be deduced from the highest antiquity. They are the very essence of every ancient institution which has had the most remote alliance with religion, and particularly they form so great a portion of Free-

* Inwood’s Sermons, p. 66.

masonry, that it could not exist without them. If Freemasonry be considered in all its parts and bearings, from the most simple elements to the highest and most ineffable degrees, this inevitable conclusion will result,—that if Masonry be good for any thing, its excellence is derived, in a great measure, from processional observances. Take away its processions, and obliterate the illustrations consequent thereon, and where is the system of Freemasonry? Our *public* processions have been instituted for many noble purposes. We visit the house of God in public, to offer up our prayers and praises for mercies and blessings,—we attend in a body, to shew the world our mutual attachment as a band of brothers,—we are arranged in a set form, to exhibit the beauty of our system, constructed on the most harmonious proportions, and modelled into a series of imperceptible grades of rank, which cement and unite us in that indissoluble chain of sincere affection, which is so well understood by Master Masons,—and blend the attributes of equality and subordination in a balance so nice and equable, that the concord between rulers and brethren is never subject to violation, while we meet on the level and part on the square.

But I will bring forward such a cloud of witnesses from the sacred records⁷ in favour of this practice, as shall silence all objections to its antiquity and usefulness. To establish the point, I need not mention the solemn procession of Adam and Eve out of Paradise, though it forms a prominent illustration of Royal Arch Masonry. It will be unnecessary to adduce the procession of angels on Jacob's ladder;⁸ or that splendid procession, the most numerous, perhaps, ever witnessed in the world, which took place at the deliverance from Egypt, when the people came out with a mighty hand, and were conducted through the wilderness by the rod of Moses.⁹ These, however, bear upon the subject, because they are pecu-

⁷ The Spurious Freemasonry was all, in like manner, processional; (see my Signs and Symbols, and Hist. Init. passim,) and I name it here, only to shew that as their system was borrowed from the true one, it follows as an inevitable deduction from this general and uniform practice which distinguished the secret rites of all nations,—how widely soever dispersed, or separated from each other by impassable barriers—that our science has always, even from the earliest times, been accompanied by the use of processions.

⁸ Gen. xxviii. 12.

⁹ This rod, or sceptre, was the visible agent which God thought proper to make use of for the deliverance of his people from captivity; and

liarly connected with Freemasonry, and received the sanction of God himself, who attended them in person, enveloped in a cloud of glory.

These processions were accompanied by the banners of the twelve tribes,¹⁰ and many others emblazoned with various devices; and they were conducted on certain prescribed principles, under the immediate direction of God himself.¹¹

Look at the procession of David to Mount Moriah, when it pleased the Lord to put a stop to the pestilence which raged amongst his people in consequence of his inadvertently having them numbered;¹² and that most pompous one of Solomon, when his stately temple was dedicated.¹³ Look at the Jewish processions generally, and in particular, the triumphal one which preceded the feast of Purim.¹⁴ Contemplate, finally, that grand procession through the streets of Jerusalem, in which the Saviour of mankind was the most prominent character; when the people shouted in strains of gratulation, Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord!¹⁵ These are the holy models on

it was emblematical of the united authority which Moses possessed, as king, priest, and prophet. It subsequently became the subject of many Rabbinical fancies. With the Hebrews, the sceptre was always a badge of authority. In Heb. xi. 21. we read that Jacob leaned on the top of his sceptre, or staff, as the patriarch of his race, while he was in the act of blessing the sons of Joseph. And it may be observed, that *virga* is frequently used in scripture for a sceptre. So in the *Iliad*, book ii.—

"The King of kings his awful figure rais'd,
"High in his hand the golden sceptre blas'd;
"The golden sceptre of celestial frame,
"By Vulcan formed, from Jove to Hermes came."

After which, follows a long list of very important personages, through whose hands the sceptre descended to him; and in a subsequent book of the same Poem, the crier is introduced, placing this sceptre in the hands of Menelaus, and commanding the Greeks to be silent while he spake.

¹⁰ This was a most magnificent spectacle,—if, as some writers think, (viz. Montanus, Simlerus, Theodotion, Junius, and particularly Oleaster,) from the construction of the words *ascenderunt quintati*, that the Israelites marched by five in a rank, *militari ordini*, in battle array; for then, as the whole procession consisted of not much less than two millions of souls, it would have extended nearly a hundred miles in length,—led by Jehovah in a cloud,—attended by the ark of the covenant and tabernacle,—and the whole host overshadowed by numerous banners waving in the air.

¹¹ The order of this procession may be found in the 10th chapter of the book of Numbers.

¹² 2 Chron. v.

¹⁴ Esth. vi. 11.

¹³ 2 Sam. xxiv. 20.

¹⁵ Matt. xxix. 9.

which our processions are founded ; and you will, therefore, no longer be inclined to think that such observances are useless, or frivolous, or unnecessary.

Masonic processions are conducted with much greater splendour on the continent than in this country. The superior officers of foreign lodges wear splendid robes of silk and velvet, of the three pure colours, decorated with gold and precious stones. I copy from a ritual of Helvetian ceremonies, in my possession, some other attendant circumstances, which are calculated to swell out the gorgeous magnificence of a masonic procession. "The Great Master walks under a purple, blue, and crimson canopy, with fine linen and bells, and decorated with tassels and fringes ; the staves of his canopy are four, or eight, which are borne by Master Masons of the oldest lodge present ; on the right hand of the Great Master is a sword-bearer ; and on his left hand is a sword-bearer ; before the Great Master is a standard, and behind him is a standard. All Masters of lodges present are under blue canopies, each borne by four Master Masons of his own company ; the canopies are six feet long, and three feet broad ; the staves are six feet long ; the framework is of cedar, or pine, or box-wood ; the covering hangs down not less than three feet on each side, and in front likewise. In the middle of the procession is carried the ark, covered over with a veil of blue, purple and crimson, by four of the oldest Masons present.

Such are the ceremonies and observances of Freemasonry. They speak a language to which every brother's heart responds, because they are connected with associations which are highly cherished and prized. These ceremonies cement an attachment to the Craft, which becomes more overwhelming as it is better understood ; and as there does not exist a single rite which is barren of instruction, so they are all and each essentially necessary to the perfection of the system. Every increase of knowledge only shews more clearly the necessity of preserving the ancient Landmarks, and of enforcing those technicalities which every true Mason regards with respect and veneration, because they are at once the guardians of our treasures, and the discriminating tokens by which our claims to fraternity are unequivocally substantiated.

COROLLARY.

THE above Lectures, it is presumed, will be found to embody much valuable information on every branch which Freemasonry is supposed to embrace. Great pains have been taken in their composition, that the volume may constitute a book of reference worthy the attention of the scientific Mason, as well as of the brother whose talents are more humble and unassuming. To both, profit and pleasure will mutually result from a careful perusal of its pages. I have been desirous of infusing a taste for the pure Philosophy of Masonry, that it may superinduce the habitual practice of those blooming virtues which its authorized Lectures so strongly recommend.

For this purpose I have defined and illustrated the three great divisions of the science, and traced their existence in every country of the ancient world. I have endeavoured to shew that Light, as our ancient brethren denominated Freemasonry,¹ was a system of primitive devotion, descending from heaven to enlighten and purify humanity;² and that the idolatrous mysteries, which were the Spurious Freemasonry of heathen nations, were derived from it. The third and fourth Lectures explain minutely the object, tendency, and result of all these

¹ In the ancient Indian mythology, Light (*Maricha*) was the son of Brahma or Adam; while in Phœnicia, Light, Fire, and Flame are represented as the children of Cain. The designation is still acknowledged in our Masonic custom of dating a document from A. L., one meaning of which is *Anno Lucis*.

² "Rabbi Hagaon said there are three Lights in God—the Ancient Light or Kadmon; the Pure Light, and the Purified Light. *Allix. Judgm.* p. 170.

three divisions, and show how they originated, and where they respectively flourished in all their glory, so as to constitute a distinct and influential feature in the civil government of all nations. Having traced the sciences known before the flood, and in particular those of Astronomy, Geometry, and Architecture, which were practised under the idea, if not under the name, of Operative Masonry, by the professors of the Spurious branch of our science; having pointed out how the imitative systems degenerated from the pure principles of primitive Lux, till they substituted the solar and sidereal worship for the simple rites enjoined by a common Creator, and the symbol itself was universally adored; having produced some ancient Landmarks of the true system which were preserved in the Spurious Freemasonry, and shewn how they had become perverted from their original design by allegory and mystification; having described this polluted institution to shew that its influence was used for political purposes, to furnish the legislator and magistrate with unlimited power over the public mind, not only from the imposing splendour of its ceremonies, but from the severity of its penalties, and the equivocal nature of its doctrines; I have proceeded to take a review of the symbolical system, which was of such essential service to the Spurious Freemasonry, as to constitute the chief essence of all its mysterious rites and doctrines. The most remarkable emblems were found in the Egyptian, the Pythagorean, and the Druidical mysteries; and these have been copiously illustrated, in order to convey a general idea of the use and application of hieroglyphics in the Gentile world.

The seventh Lecture, therefore, embraces a comprehensive view of the origin and use of symbols, with the intention of pointing out their application alike to the true and the Spurious Freemasonry. Of this kind were the Patriarchal, the Jewish, and the Christian types; many of which have been incorporated into our system of Freemasonry, and constitute a most delightful relief from studies that require a greater portion of serious thought. In a word, the symbolical illustrations of Masonry recommend it strongly to our notice; not merely by the pleasures which result from their acquisition, but from the genuine morality and unsullied benevolence which accompany their elucidation.

An attentive consideration of the progress of Speculative and Operative Masonry, amongst the two grand divisions of men who preserved and who rejected the true faith and worship of God, as delineated in the preceding Lectures, will shew that the distance between them, at one period of the unhappy history of man's apostasy, was wide as the poles asunder. And the true system of Light will display greater charms from its contrast with the hideous deformity of its spurious rival. For while, as Sir Walter Raleigh justly observes, the apostate race were employed in earthly pursuits, pleasure, and ambition, and in cultivating the arts of music, architecture, agriculture, and the working of metals; the celestial offspring practised the more exalted sciences of divinity, prophecy and astronomy: the children of one beheld the heavens; the children of the other, the earth.

The eighth Lecture records the interesting fact, that Speculative and Operative Masonry, thus marked by broad and distinctive characteristics, made gradual approaches towards each other, as the time drew nigh for the erection of that gorgeous Temple in honour of the true God, which was destined to eclipse, in riches and glory, all the buildings which the pride or vanity of man should induce him to consecrate to deities of his own invention. At that period was consummated the beneficent union of Speculative and Operative Masonry, which produced results that excited the admiration of mankind.

The events which occurred during the progress of this structure, are of such importance to our science—embracing a wide range of ritual observances, and conducing to the enforcement of masonic discipline by precept and example—that I have thought it necessary to devote an especial Lecture to their consideration. The mass of valuable matter which lay before me—the curious documents—the interesting traditions—the significant rites, and the historical associations of that period, so important to the Free and Accepted Mason—were of such vast moment, as to demand an extended illustration; although the suppression of many facts, which could not consistently be submitted to the public eye, was considered indispensable. I have, however, endeavoured to concentrate the principal masonic traditions

which have reached our times, respecting the events and traditions of that remarkable epoch ; and have recorded, in the ninth Lecture, some circumstances which are known only to few ; and which the well-instructed Mason alone will be able to trace through the veil which I have thought it necessary to throw over them.

I hope it will be acknowledged that these two important Lectures contain a fund of information on the subject ; and I take credit to myself for having communicated it with such circumspection and care as not to have violated, even in the most remote degree, those injunctions of secrecy which are imposed in our solemn obligations.

The three concluding Lectures are intended to display the beauties of Freemasonry as it is now practised ; and I flatter myself that the industrious brother will find there a treasure which will be worthy of his consideration. The forms and ceremonies of the Order are exemplified and defended ; nor have their moral and symbolical reference been overlooked.

From the general tenor of these Lectures, we may fairly conclude that Freemasonry is a subject worthy the attention of the Christian and the man of science. It includes a pure system of ethics, and develops the philosophy of mind, at the same time that it recommends and encourages social recreation, to unbend the energies, and recruit exhausted nature after hard and severe application to science. It has ever been my opinion that the philosophy of Masonry is not sufficiently attended to in the generality of our Lodges. And this is not, I am persuaded, owing to remissness or want of talent, but on account of the absence of some adequate and absorbing stimulus. It would, in my opinion, have constituted a most rational and engaging employment, if, added to the routine Lectures, competent brethren, giving due notice, with the approbation of the Chair, were to undertake to illustrate and explain in a familiar manner certain points in our history, doctrines, or discipline, on which the authorized Lectures are silent. It is for want of some such arrangement that so many brethren remain ignorant of the true design of the Order, and of many events, connected with its early history, without a competent knowledge of which, a false estimate is made, and the

institution pronounced to be useless in the promotion of any worthy or valuable end.

How often do we hear Masons, many years after their initiation, desire information on subjects, which, under the system I recommend, even a tyro would be capable of furnishing. Brethren, high in rank and office, are often unacquainted with the elementary principles of the Science; and, instead of teaching others, acknowledge with regret that they have themselves much to learn. If a spirit of emulation were once fairly excited in a Lodge of Masons, the most gratifying results would soon appear. A desire to excel would not remain without its fruits; and the brethren would soon be impressed with the idea that it is by the love and cultivation of the philosophy of Freemasonry alone that they can arrive at any true nobleness of character, or real distinction in the science. This process would tend to reform the mind and improve the manners; to change indolence into activity; to teach the ignorant wisdom; to reclaim the dissolute, and to influence the unruly to perform all the duties of social obedience; and if Masonry were thus made subservient to the practice of religion, it would convey peace and comfort in this world, united with the most cheering hopes of happiness in the world to come.





SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

ILLUSTRATED AND EXPLAINED,

IN A COURSE OF

TWELVE LECTURES

ON

FREEMASONRY.

BY THE REV. GEORGE OLIVER, D.D.,

VICAR OF SCOPWICK; INCUMBENT OF THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH, WOLVER-
HAMPTON; PROVINCIAL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER FOR LINCOLNSHIRE;
DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD KENSINGTON.

"What is Masonry?"

"A beautiful System of Morality, veiled in Allegory
and illustrated by SYMBOLS."

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TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK, DUKE OF SUSSEX;

EARL OF INVERNESS; BARON OF ARKLOW;

KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER;

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTS, MANUFACTURES, AND COMMERCE; COLONEL OF THE HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY;

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER OF MASONS;

ETC., ETC., ETC.,

THESE LECTURES

ARE (BY PERMISSION) INSCRIBED,

WITH SENTIMENTS OF THE MOST PROFOUND RESPECT AND ATTACHMENT,

BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S

OBLIGED

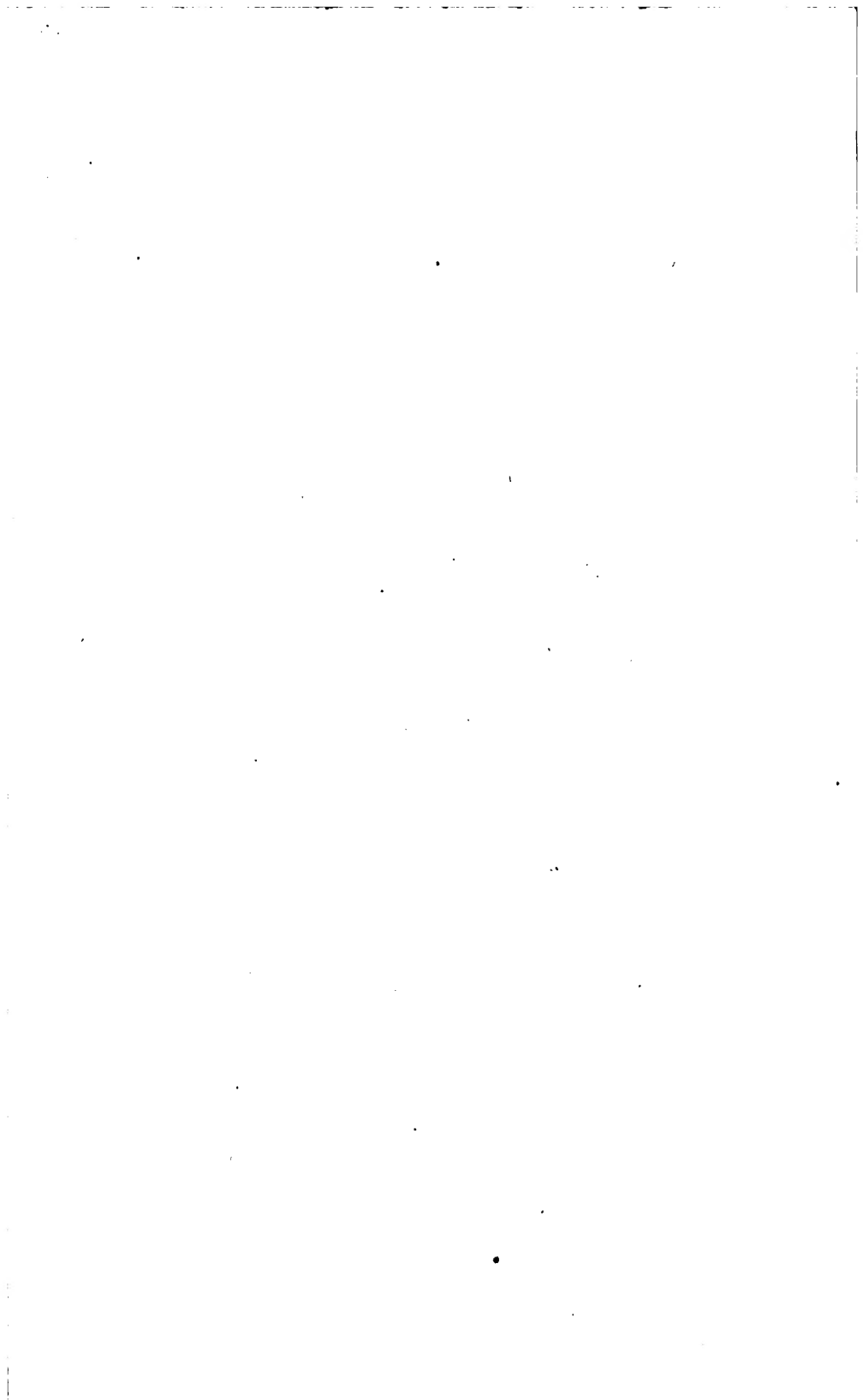
AND MOST DEVOTED HUMBLE SERVANT,

GEORGE OLIVER, D.D.



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P R E F A C E.

IMPRESSED with a due sense of the high degree of responsibility which is incurred by an attempt to illustrate the Science of Masonry, I submit the following sheets to my Brethren, in the confidence of hope, that I have succeeded in placing the Light in so luminous a point of view, that, like the glorious Pillar which conducted the children of Israel safely out of Egypt, it will enlighten the true Mason, without affording a single ray to assist the forbidden investigations of those who have a desire to penetrate the arcana of Masonry, without submitting to the legitimate process of initiation. With pure intentions, I have used my utmost endeavours to conceal from the prying eyes of uninitiated curiosity those essential points which have constituted Masonry into an exclusive system, and will remain an impenetrable barrier between its professors and the world to the end of time. Some passages may be found whose ultimate sense will even be unintelligible to the ordinary Mason, and known only to him who has been exalted to the Royal Arch. It is hoped that the assiduous Brother, by the persual of these pages, will be able to add considerably to his stock of knowledge on this comprehensive subject. He will find, in the high antiquity of those Emblems, where all

the beauties of Masonry lie concealed, new reasons for admiring the judicious mechanism, and the refined morality of the Science; and will conduct his researches with renewed alacrity and spirit, on discovering that the very same Symbols have been used for a similar purpose by every nation and people, and in all the secret institutions which have existed from the creation to the present time.

In tracing the antiquity of these significant Emblems, we are necessarily plunged deeply into the MYSTERIES of ancient nations, which, though founded on the principles of primitive Masonry, and using the same symbolical imagery, were not productive of the same results; because there existed a radical defect in their formation, which blighted every genial principle, and counteracted the efficacy of emblematical instruction, which has an express tendency to soften the manners and humanize the heart. They were established for the purpose of placing a secret and uncontrollable power in the hands of the hierophants and mystagogues; and hence every means was resorted to which might extend their influence or increase their popularity. These purposes being foreign to the primitive design, innovation followed innovation, each succeeding change being a retrograde movement from original purity, until, instead of a mild and benevolent religion, thus renounced by gradual steps to make room for superstitions more splendid and imposing, their rites of divine worship became fierce and bloody, implacable and severe; and this produced a corresponding change in the disposition of the heart. Instead of the cheering ray of Hope, from which comfort and consolation were derived by the ancient professors of pure Masonry, under the pressure of adversity, the degenerate race were bowed down with sadness and despair. The place of pure devotion was usurped by obscene rites and

ceremonial observances. In a word, *LIGHT* was rejected, and an unfathomable *Darkness* had taken possession of the Soul. Hence severe penances were instituted, which the wretched sufferers were taught to believe would propitiate the wrath of heaven; and hence arose also, united with the perverted meaning of an ancient prophecy, the horrid custom of sanguinary sacrifices, in which the polluted altars of the gods were stained with human gore.

The mysteries of Egypt contained all the secrets of their religion and politics; and inspired dread and terror throughout the world. By the uninitiated they were regarded as vehicles of knowledge more than human; and the dispensers of them were reputed to possess some high and peculiar attributes of the divinity. The initiated themselves were struck with a sacred horror, at the recollection of that awful solemnity which attended their own initiation; and dared not even to name, or refer to them in familiar conversation, lest their indiscretion should elicit the summary vengeance of the justly offended deities.¹

When Grecian philosophy began to prevail, the mysteries were applied by wise men to the purpose of enquiring more particularly after the nature and attributes of the Deity; which, though a legitimate pursuit of primitive Masonry, had yielded to the introduction of popular innovations, until the truth was obscured under a mass of absurdity and fable. Their bold disquisitions varied from the monotony of ancient practice, and differed essentially from each other; whence many distinctive varieties were introduced into the Lodges or Schools, which never before existed; and the doctrines were diversified according to the speculative opinions of each Prin

¹ Horap. l. ii. od. 3.—Liv. l. xxxi.

cipal Superintendent. These Schools bore every character of Masonry, except that one grand and distinguished characteristic, which confers life and vigour on all its proceedings, the true knowledge and worship of the Deity. It is highly probable that these philosophers had some faint knowledge of the true God; but they did not worship him as God, preferring the creature to the Creator: and in the lesser mysteries they substituted a rabble of false deities to his total exclusion. In taking a brief view of this succedaneum for Masonry, as it existed in every nation of the world before the coming of Jesus Christ, we may see to what a skeleton of dry bones it was reduced when forsaken by the spirit.

After Pythagoras had newly modelled the Mysteries, and different sects of Masons, or Philosophers (for Pythagoras gave the name of Philosophy as well as Mesouraneo to our Science²), began to entertain new and irreconcilable opinions on the subject of research, their speculations were carried on in each Lodge with eager avidity, but without adopting a selfish system of exclusion. Each body was in the highest degree communicative; its members were ever ready to instruct others in their peculiar dogmas, and all united in the common pursuit of searching after truth. They had very indistinct notions of the true God, though his name was not unknown to them; and, entertaining gross and sensual ideas of his nature, it is no wonder that Vice became deified; and that the commission of every unnatural lust was not only permitted, but even made a test of reverence to the Deity.³ Mercy was by one converted into a vice;⁴ by another, adultery was sanctified;⁵ and fornication⁶ and suicide⁷ were the common practice of all. Thus the

² Cic. Tusc. quest. 5.—Valer. Maxim.

³ Lucian de Dea Syr.

⁴ Laert. in vit. Zen.

⁵ Herod.

⁶ Laert. de Demet.

⁷ Laert. de Arist.

purity of Masonry fled from these institutions as they retrograded from the true worship of God; and this purity it was that they, in vain, endeavoured to recover. They practised vice; but then they thought that it was virtue: they practised the worship of the false gods or dæmons; but they verily thought, until the later ages, when a few sects dissented from the belief, that they were performing a service acceptable to God, by practising the rites of true religion through the intervention of mediators. And hence it is easy to demonstrate, not only that Masonry as practised by Jews and Christians, but also, that every resemblance of it in all parts of the world, was professedly, if not practically devoted to the perfecting of man's mental powers, that he might pass through a life of virtue here, to the full enjoyment of it in a future state.

Under what denomination soever our Science has been known in the world, under what form soever it may have been practised from the fall of man to the present time, it has always been understood to have a distinct reference to the worship of God, and the moral culture of man. Whether it were received under the appellation of Phos, Lux, Synagoge, Mystery, Philosophy, Mesouraneo, or Masonry;—whether practised by the antediluvians, the Patriarchs, the Idolaters, the Jews, the Essenes, or the Christians; in all ages and among all people it possessed the same reference to the prominent truths of religion. The idolatrous mysteries, which were the most perfect imitation of Masonry that could be practised by those who had renounced its distinguishing principles along with the true worship of God, were founded to preserve amongst mankind the nominal practice of religion, although the incense might be offered to dæmons on an idolatrous altar; and they were usually celebrated in conjunction with the rites of divine worship. Thus were they gene-

rally applied to the purpose of perpetuating a knowledge of the divinity, and the doctrine of a future state of rewards and punishments; as well as to fix in the minds of the uninitiated vulgar a deep and solemn reverence for the duties of religion.^a It is scarcely necessary to enlarge on this point, because the fact is universally notorious; nor shall I discuss the unessential difference in each of these Mysteries, as that would involve many useless repetitions, for their nature and object were universally the same. The characteristic propensities of a people, the state of their progress from barbarism to civilization; their intellectual attainments, the character of their government, or their intercourse with other nations, might and did create some distinction in the ceremonial, but the great essentials, broadly struck out by the Cabiric priests, did never vary. The same primary doctrines remained in the reign of Theodosius which were inculcated by the founders, though the ceremonial had become polluted with every species of abomination and uncleanness. If Masonry, or its idolatrous substitute, be considered under the worst and most forbidding forms, it invariably preserved the moral dogmas and institutes of each national religion. It is true that false religion produced false Masonry; and the latter, faithful to the principles by which it was supported, proceeded no farther than an idolatrous worship would sanction. In a word, the Mysteries were the only vehicles of religion throughout the whole idolatrous world; and it is probable that the very name of religion might have been obliterated from amongst them, but for the support it received by the periodical celebrations, which preserved all the forms and ceremonies, rites and practices of divine worship; and the varieties of custom

^a Strab. Geogr. l. i.

in this particular, constituted the sole difference betwixt the Masonry (shall I so call it?) of different nations. Wheresoever the Mysteries were introduced, they retained their primitive form, adapted to the customs and usages of the national religion; and, if varied in some unimportant points, it was to commemorate certain extraordinary performances of the tutelary deities, or to perpetuate some remarkable circumstance attending their first institution in a particular country. Hence the same, or similar ceremonies, which were applied to Osiris and Isis in Egypt, the great source of secret and mysterious rites,⁹ were celebrated in Greece, in honour of Bacchus and Rhea; at Eleusis, they were applied to Ceres and Proserpine; in Tyre and Cyprus, to Adonis and Venus; in Persia, to Mithras and Mithra; in India, to Maha Deva and Sita; in Britain, to Hu and Ceridwen; in Scandinavia, to Odin and Frea; and in Mexico, to Tlaloc and the Great Mother; for these appear to be but different names for the same deities, and most probably referred to Noah and the Ark. They were all originally the same System, founded on primitive Masonry; but being deteriorated by false worship, bore a very imperfect resemblance to the divine pattern. They all, however, preserved a disguised tradition of the creation and fall of man, and the universal deluge; they used as most significant emblems, the Theological Ladder; the triple support of the universal Lodge, called, by Masons, Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty; the Point within a Circle, and many other legitimate emblems of Masonry; they used the same form of government; the same system of secrecy, allegory, and symbolical Instruction; all tending to the same point, the practice of moral virtue. None were admitted without previous probation and ini-

⁹ Lucian de Dea Syr.

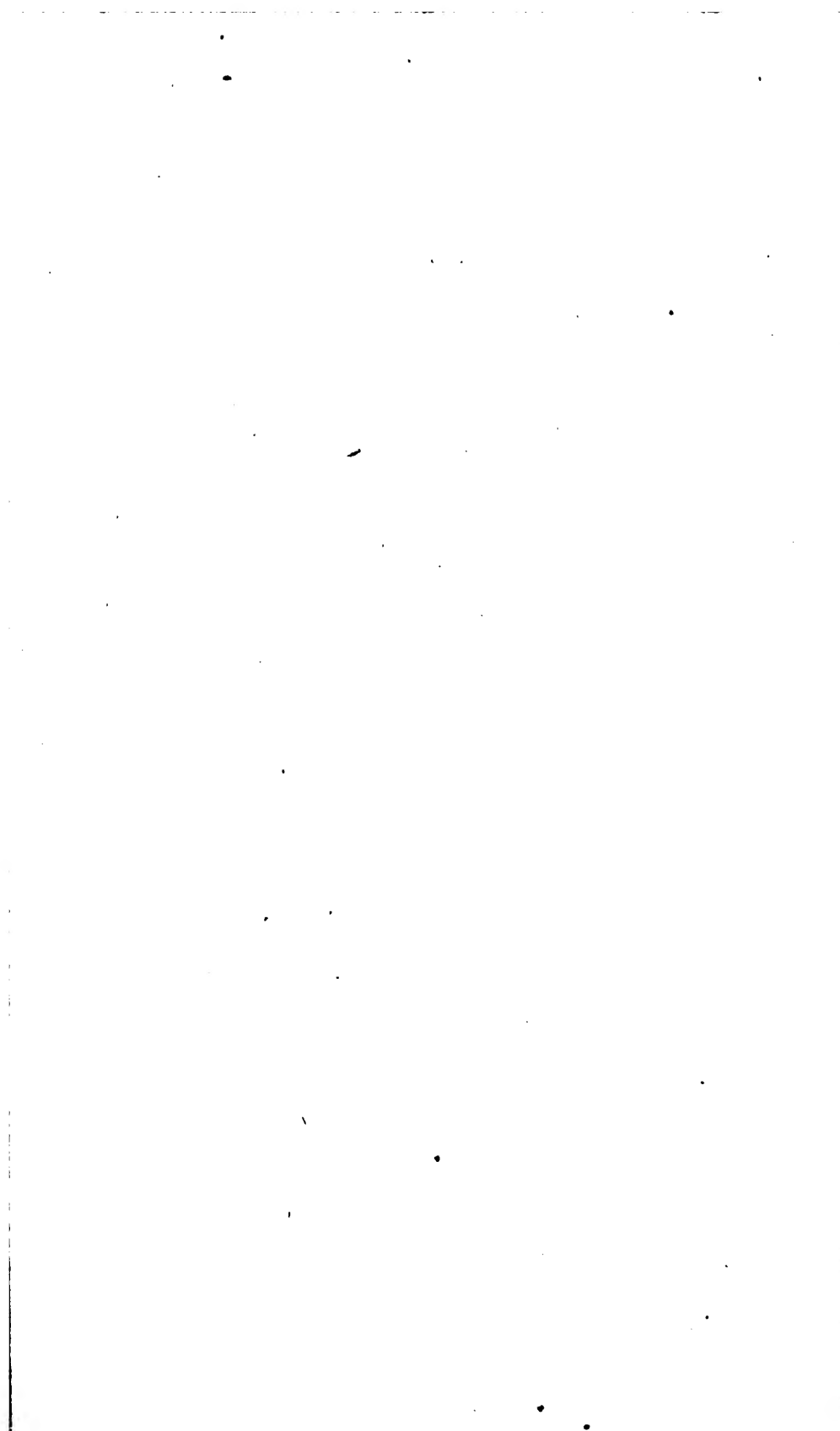
tiation; the candidates were bound by solemn oaths; united by invisible ties; taught by Symbols; distinguished by Signs and Tokens; and, impelled by a conscientious adherence to the rules of the Order, they professed to practice the most rigid morality—justice towards men, and piety to the gods.

In treating on all the points connected with these Symbols, I trust it will be acknowledged that in this Course of Lectures I have not removed the veil which conceals a single forbidden secret; that I have not exposed to the public gaze a single word, letter, or character, which may tend to excite sensations of alarm in the bosom of the most rigid and tenacious Mason; but that I have endeavoured modestly to illustrate such points and symbols as may show the beauty of the System, and convince mankind at large that Masonry is really what it professes to be, an Order of Peace, Harmony, and Brotherly Love.

I have been scrupulously careful about the admission of a single sentence from the *peculiar* Lectures of Masonry which has not already appeared in a printed form in one or other of our legitimate publications. It is true, the following pages contain much genuine Masonry; but it is not marked by the use of a distinguishing type, and is distributed with so much precaution as to render fruitless the attempt of an uninitiated person to determine where it is concealed; while to the assiduous Mason's view it lies open and exposed. To him it is like a burning and a shining Light, elevated on a lofty candlestick, and darting its pure and perfect rays to enlighten and invigorate the Soul.

I conclude this Preface in the words of Brother Wellins Calcott, who published some disquisitions on Freemasonry in 1769. "However anxious and restless the busy and invidious may be, and whatever attempts they may

make to traduce our Institution or discover our mysteries, all their endeavours will prove ineffectual. They will still find that the only means to attain to the knowledge of our mysteries are abilities, integrity, firmness, and a due and constant perseverance in the great duties of moral and social life, in principles of religion and virtue, and whatever is commendable and praiseworthy. These are the steps, and this the clue, that will lead and direct the practisers of such excellencies to the heights of Freemasonry, and while they adhere to them, will effectually secure them favour and esteem from every able and faithful Brother, and the warmest approbation and satisfaction from their own hearts."



SIGNS AND SYMBOLS.

LECTURE I.

ON THE HIEROGLYPHICAL SYSTEM OF THE ANCIENTS.

"When first the golden morn aloft,
With maiden breezes whispering soft,
Sprung from the East with rosy wing,
To kiss the heavenly first-born spring;
JEHOVAH then from hallowed earth
Gave Masonry immortal birth." *Masonic Ode.*

"Study eagerly the meaning of the hieroglyphics and emblems which the Order lays before thee. Even nature does not always unveil her secrets; she must be observed, compared, and frequently watched with attention in her operations."—*Masonic Exhortations, from the German.*

It has long been my opinion that the most beneficial results would ensue to the Science of Freemasonry, were the Masters of Lodges to devote some portion of their time to the delivery of explanatory Lectures on subjects of general interest connected with the Institution. Such a practice might be the means of elucidating many points on which our customary Lectures leave us entirely in the dark. Some years ago, a law, emanating from the M. W. G. M., passed the Grand Lodge,¹ empowering every Master to deliver his Lectures "in a language suited to the character of the Lodge over which he presides," with this only proviso, that the established Landmarks be not removed.

¹ December 1st, 1819.

This liberal regulation leaves the local discussions of our lodges open to considerable improvement, and relieves us from the shackles of a constituted form, whose unvarying features, beautiful as they are, after a few years' habitual repetition, become, to a certain extent, uninteresting; for every human composition, how superior soever it may be, palls on the mind when the charm of novelty has faded away; and, at a still more distant period, its salutary impression ceases altogether. But a provision, like that I have just referred to, constitutes a masonic lodge into a literary society, where every member is at liberty to add to the general stock of knowledge by promulgating the results of his own enquiries, and disseminating among the Brethren the fruits of his researches in our ancient and scientific Institution.

Masonry contains many points to which such enquiries may be usefully directed; I shall suggest a few, in the course of these Lectures, and state how far my own observations have extended.

One important question, which appears to have been almost wholly neglected by masonic writers, is: whether Freemasonry be a servile imitation of certain ceremonies in the ancient idolatrous mysteries, as is asserted by some writers; or whether it be the great original from which the mysteries themselves were derived. On this enquiry I have bestowed much deliberate consideration, for I found it impossible to be satisfied with practising a science derived from the polluted dregs of idolatry. To investigate this important point fully and impartially, I have consulted most of the principal mythological writers, both ancient and modern, whose works are accessible, and possess either interest or authority. I have examined, with the greatest attention, the mysterious establishments of all nations in the world; and have bestowed infinite pains in collecting, from the institutions of antiquity, the peculiar ceremonies of initiation, as well as the date of their origin, their doctrines, usages, and customs, in the hope of elucidating this most abstruse point, and detecting the fallacy of those pretensions to originality which were exhibited in the practice of idolatrous rites, in various heathen nations. The result of this investigation has introduced into my mind a firm persuasion that Freemasonry is not,

as some authors seem to think,² a scion snatched with a violent hand from the ancient mysteries; but, in reality, *the original institution from which all the mysteries were derived*; because, from their agreement in certain essential points which could only be obtained from a system of purity and truth, we derive ample testimony to establish the fact, that the mysteries of all nations were originally the same, and diversified only by the accidental circumstances of local situation and political economy. I admit, without hesitation, that Masonry and the mysteries bear many characteristics in common, which point out a common origination; but, by tracing the latter to their source, separating the component parts with a careful hand, and minutely analyzing every occult rite and mystic ceremony, it will clearly appear that they owe their origin to the pure science which we now practise under the designation of Freemasonry. The true system of divine worship had its accompanying institution of mystery, which was coeval with religion, and essential to its support. This arrangement was copied by the idolaters, whose newly established plans of worship were always accompanied by corresponding systems of mystery, formed on the same basis, and embracing the same principles as the pure system which was attached to the primitive religion. As, therefore, the *true* preceded the *false* religion, so the institution now called Masonry was anterior to the establishment of the mysteries.

It is true, many impediments exist to prevent a clear and satisfactory elucidation of the institutions of antiquity. The greater portion of the ancient authors who mention them appear to have been under the high restraint of that awful secrecy which the initiated were bound to observe,³ and consequently many of the secrets

² Fab. Pag. Idol. b. v. c. 6.—Clicht. in Anthol. Hibern. 1794.—London Magazine, Jan. 1824.—Robison's Proofs of a Conspiracy, p. 20.

³ Diod. Sic. p. 32.—Horap. l. 2. Andoc. de Myst. p. 7. Meurs. Eleus. c. 20. "The betrayers of the mysteries (says Warburton) were punished capitally and with merciless severity. Diagoras the Melian had revealed the Orphic and Eleusinian Mysteries, on which account he passed with the people for an Atheist. He likewise dissuaded his friends from being initiated into these rites; the consequence of which was, that the city of Athens proscribed him, and set a price upon his head. And the poet

and usages remain undiscovered. Enough, however, may be collected to convince us of their common origination; and certain ceremonies and symbols, which bear a striking resemblance to the rites of Freemasonry, may be traced in these institutions, amidst the heterogeneous mass of profaneness and impiety which rendered the celebration at once disgraceful and obscene.

The rites of that Science which is now received under the appellation of Freemasonry, were exercised in the antediluvian world; revived by Noah after the flood; practised by mankind at the building of Babel, conveniences for which were undoubtedly contrived in the interior of that celebrated edifice; and at the dispersion spread with every settlement, already deteriorated by the gradual innovations of the Cabiric Priests,⁴ and modelled into a form, the great outlines of which are distinctly to be traced in the mysteries of every heathen nation, exhibiting the shattered remains of one true System whence they were all derived.

The rites of idolatry were indeed strikingly similar, and generally deduced from parallel practices, previously used by the true Masons; for idolatry was an imitative system, and all its ceremonies and doctrines were founded on the general principles of the patriarchal religion. If the patriarch united in his own person the three offices of king, priest, and prophet, the secret assemblies of idolatry were also governed by a Triad, consisting of three supreme offices: if primitive Masonry was a system of Light, the initiated heathen equally paid divine honours to the Sun, as the source of light, by circumambulating *in the course of that luminary*, during the ceremony of initiation. The uniformity of practice which attended

Eschylus had like to have been torn in pieces by the people on the mere suspicion that, in one of his scenes, he had given a hint of something in the Mysteries." Div. Leg. b. ii. s. 4.

⁴ "The Mysteries of the Cabiric Rites," says Sammes, in his *Britannia*, p. 55, "were accounted so sacred and powerful, that whosoever was initiated in them, immediately received, as they thought, some extraordinary gifts of holiness, and that in all their dangers they had a present remedy and expedient about them to deliver and rescue them; but that which most affected the Phenicians was a confidence they had, that those religious ceremonies preserved them from dangers by sea. Therefore it is no wonder that, arriving in Britain, they taught the inhabitants that worship, to which they held themselves most obliged for their safety."

the progress of error in different nations is truly astonishing. They equally used the *Ambrosiæ Petræ*, as vehicles of regeneration; they shrouded their rites under the impenetrable mask of secrecy; they possessed the same mode of conveying instruction by symbols, allegory, and fable; the same repugnance to committing their abstruse secrets to writing; the same system of morality; the same attachment to amulets, talismans, and perhaps magic; and equally inculcated the immortality of the soul, and a future state of rewards and punishments, which were alike pantomimically exhibited during the initiations.⁵

The departure from Freemasonry was indeed, at its original corruption, but slightly marked. The object was changed by the substitution of surreptitious deities, but the ceremonial remained nearly the same. It was only by successive, and, in some instances, very remote innovations, that the system at length assumed a different character; and even at its last and most corrupted change, many striking points of resemblance may be traced, which unequivocally denote a common origination. Hence, however the mysteries of different nations might vary in ceremonial observances, they contain certain arbitrary Landmarks which are unquestionable evidences that they were derived from some true and primitive system; for they were nothing but Masonry or Lux, gradually perverted to the corrupt purposes of a false and spurious worship.

The system of hieroglyphics or symbols,⁶ which is

⁵ Borl. Cornw. p. 174. Fab. Cab. c. 10.—Warb. Div. Leg. b. ii. s. 4.—Apul. Metam. 2.—Dav. Celt. Res. p. 289.—Cesar. de bel. Gal. l. 6. 13.—Porph. de Abstin. l. 4. s. 22.—Kæmpf. Japan. b. iii. c. 4.—Sacotala, Sir W. Jones's works, vol. vi.—Dav. Druids, p. 277.—Warb. Div. Leg. b. iv. s. 4.—Brand's Pop. Ant. vol. ii. p. 376.—Origin. con. Cels. l. 3.

⁶ Hieroglyphics are emblems or signs of divine, sacred, or supernatural things, by which they are distinguished from common symbols, which are signs of sensible or natural things. Hermes Trismegistus is commonly esteemed the inventor of hieroglyphics; he first introduced them into the heathen theology, from whence they have been transplanted into the Jewish and Christian. Sacred things, says Hippocrates, should only be communicated to sacred persons. The Egyptians communicated to none but their kings and priests, and those who were to succeed to the priesthood and the crown, the secrets of nature and the mysteries of their morality and history; and this they did by a kind of Cabala, which, at

proposed for illustration in these Lectures, was adopted into every mysterious institution, for the purpose of concealing the most sublime secrets of religion from the prying curiosity of the vulgar; to whom nothing was exposed but the beauties of their morality.⁷ "The old Asiatic style, so highly figurative, seems, by what we find of its remains in the prophetic language of the sacred writers, to have been evidently fashioned to the mode of the ancient hieroglyphics; for, as in hieroglyphic writing, the sun, moon, and stars were used to represent states and empires, kings, queens, and nobility, their eclipse and extinction, temporary disasters, or entire overthrow, fire and flood, desolation by war and famine, plants or animals, the qualities of particular persons, &c.; so, in like manner, the holy prophets call kings and empires, by the names of the heavenly luminaries; their misfortunes and overthrow are represented by eclipses and extinction; stars falling from the firmament are employed to denote the destruction of the nobility; thunder and tempestuous winds, hostile invasions; lions, bears, leopards, goats, or high trees, leaders of armies, conquerors, and founders of empires: royal dignity is described by purple or a crown; iniquity by spotted garments; error and misery by an intoxicating draught; a warrior by a sword or bow; a powerful man by a gigantic stature; and a judge by balance, weights, and measures. In a word, the prophetic style seems to be a speaking hieroglyphic."⁸

The whole mystical system of Pythagoras was expressed by signs and symbols, which the initiated understood, while the rest of the world, though in the midst of light, remained for ever enveloped in the impenetrable shades of darkness.⁹ His secrets were forbidden to be committed to writing, and were delivered orally from one to another as ineffable mysteries. The Pythagoreans, so famous for their silence, conversed with each other chiefly by signs; a practice which was adopted, not only as an universal language, but to conceal from the vulgar their

the same time that it instructed them, only amused the rest of the people. Hence the use of hieroglyphics or mystic figures to veil their morality, politics, &c. from profane eyes.—*Spon.*

⁷ Ramsay's Travels of Cyrus, b. iii.

⁸ Warb. Div. Leg. b. iv. s. 4.

⁹ Jamb. c. 34.

peculiar doctrines and modes of thinking. Symbolical instruction, which was found so useful in impressing on the mind the most dilated and comprehensive truths, that it had been adopted from Masonry into all the mysteries, was in high esteem with Pythagoras;¹⁰ for he said, in treating of all things divine and human, the vastness of such a complicated subject demanded short symbols to help and assist the memory.¹¹ This system was attended with other very important advantages. The method of communicating ideas by signs and symbols, had, in all ages, given its possessors a decided advantage over the rest of the world; for, "as generals use watchwords to distinguish their soldiers from others; so it is very advantageous to communicate to friends and brothers, some peculiar signs and symbols as distinctive marks of a society. These, amongst the Pythagoreans, were a chain of indissoluble love."¹²

The Druids, also, possessed a profound system of hieroglyphics, the principles of which were communicated with great reluctance, even to the Epopthee themselves. The characters of this species of symbol were borrowed from the appearance of natural objects and chiefly from the vegetable creation. "Thus, of a man who possessed an expanded mind, it would be said, *he is an Oak*; of another, who was liable to be intimidated, was irresolute and wavering, *he is an Aspen leaf*; or of a third who was hollow and deceitful, *he is a Reed*."¹³ The knowledge of these symbols was properly denominated mystery; and the initiated were strictly forbid to com-

¹⁰ "The most ancient," says Stanley, (Hist. Phil. vol. 3. part 1. p. 112.) "and such as were cotemporary with, and disciples to Pythagoras, did not compose their writings intelligible, in a common vulgar style, familiar to every one, as if they endeavoured to dictate things readily perceptible by the hearer, but consonant to the silence decreed by Pythagoras, concerning divine mysteries, which it is not lawful to speak of before those who were not initiated; and therefore clouded both their mutual discourses and writings by symbols; which, if not expounded by those that proposed them, by a regular interpretation appear to the hearers like old wives' proverbs, trivial and foolish; but being rightly explained, and instead of dark rendered lucid and conspicuous to the vulgar, they discover an admirable sense, no less than the divine oracles of Pythian Apollo; and give a divine inspiration to the Philologists that understand them."

¹¹ Laert. vit. Pyth.

¹² Davies Celt. Res. p. 247.

¹³ Stanley's Life of Pyth. b. iv. c. 1.

mit any portion of it to writing.¹⁴ This method of concentrating the secrets of their order, and fixing them permanently in the recollection by means of visible images, was adopted to prevent the uninitiated¹⁵ from acquiring improperly any insight into their occult rites and disquisitions. Whatever was valuable in the system of Druidism, was embodied in some visible and picturesque object, which thus became a depository of important truths. Hence, almost every object they saw could read them a lecture on morality; and hence inanimate matter was said to speak with the lips of knowledge; and contemplation was assisted and enforced in every situation, by the actual presence of those silent, yet eloquent teachers of wisdom.

Geometrical figures, as lines, angles, squares, and perpendiculars, were ranked amongst the symbols of Druidism. "As the Druids had no enclosed temples, thinking them inconsistent with the majesty of the gods; so neither had they any carved images to represent them, and for the same reason; but, instead thereof, rude stones were erected in their places of worship at some mystic, significant distance, and in some emblematic number, situation, and plan; sometimes in *right lines*, sometimes in *squares*, sometimes in *triangles*, sometimes in both; now single and fifty paces distant or more from the circles; or eminently taller than the rest in the circular line, and making a part of it like portals, not only to shape the entrance, but also to hallow those that entered: it appearing by many monuments, that the Druids attributed great virtue to these passages between rocks."¹⁶

This custom was practised in its greatest perfection, and consequently with the most triumphant success, in Egypt, the land of allegory as well as superstition. Those astonishing specimens of human art and ingenuity, which still remain in that country to excite our wonder

¹⁴ Cæsar de bel. Gal. l. 6. 13.

¹⁵ The ignorant Britons were easily impressed with superstitious reverence for these profound secrets; for, at the period of the Roman invasion under Cæsar, they were still extremely rude in their diet and mode of life. (Strabo. l. 4. Diod. Sic. l. 4.) some went entirely naked, (Xiphil. l. 21.) others were clothed in the skins of beasts, (Cæsar. l. 5. c. 14.) and the state in which they were found induced the Romans to style them barbarians. Herodian. l. 3. Pomp. Mela. l. 3. c. 6.

¹⁶ Borl. Corn. b. ii. c. 17.

and admiration—not to mention the sphinxes, the obelisks, the catacombs, and other minor, though stupendous masses of architecture, the gigantic pyramids, one of which, say the Copts, was erected by Ham, and another by Shem, are generally regarded either as having been intended for tombs, or repositories for hidden treasure in times of public agitation. Some, indeed, have conjectured that they were buildings appropriated to the occult purpose of practising magical arts, and the construction of talismans and charms. The truth, however, is, that they were places principally used for the celebration of the mysteries, which were of great importance in Egypt, and derived additional celebrity from the splendour, solidity, or costliness of the place which was devoted to their solemnization. Now the quadrangular Pyramid contained many mysterious and symbolical references. It was supposed to allegorize the soul, or the principle of immortality. And this opinion was not peculiar to Egypt, but was admitted by the Indians, the Chinese, and in the extremest regions of the West; for the high Altar of Vitzliputzli, in Mexico, was Pyramidal; as was also the celebrated Temple at Nankin. Sphinxes were erected in the front of temples and places of initiation, as we are informed by Clement of Alexandria,¹⁷ to denote that all sacred truth is enfolded in enigmatical fables and allegories.¹⁸

In their initiations, the Egyptians informed the candidate, as an ineffable secret, that the mysteries were received from father Adam, Seth, and Enoch; and in the chief degree the perfectly initiated aspirant was termed, from the name of the Deity, AL—OM—JAH; pronounced Allhawmiyah. After the initiation was fully completed, figs and honey were presented to the candidate, accompanied by this maxim, *Truth is sweet*.

The characteristic property of these mysteries was **SECRECY**: Hence sprang the innumerable Emblems and hieroglyphical Symbols with which they abounded;—hence the great personification of Silence or Taciturnity so

¹⁷ Lib. 5. c. 4.

¹⁸ In India a secret language was used in the mysteries, which was called *Devanagari*, a word compounded of *Deva*, divine, and *Nagari*, a city; and this language was boldly asserted to have been revealed to them by the Deity himself.—*Maur. Ind. Ant.* vol. 3. p. 396

frequently recurring on all their sculptured monuments; and hence their incessant reference to *Darkness*, which was an emblem expressive of the profound secrecy under which the initiated were bound by solemn obligations, enforced by denunciations of rigorous penalties. The Symbol of this darkness, resembled a Mason's *Trowel*.¹⁹ ➡

The reason assigned for this jealousy has been revealed to us by Apuleius. He says, that in a subsequent part of his own initiation, the hierophant produced *certain mysterious writings, or Tracing Boards which contained Symbols explanatory of the whole system*, expressed by figures of animals, and secret marks, interwoven with apparent intricacy; now revolving like a wheel; now turned inwards and crowded together, *that the hidden meaning might be effectually concealed from the prying curiosity of the uninitiated*.²⁰ The symbolical instruction of Egypt was of unlimited extent: every thing in nature, every thing mysterious, every branch of science, each technical phrase, and each component part of the mysteries were expressed by a significant and appropriate Symbol. Hence arose the complicated inscriptions on tombs, obelisks, and temples, which are generally mere historical records, pointing out the name of the builder, with the addition of such moral precepts as the genius of the founder might suggest, and bearing a reference to the circumstances which occasioned the construction of the edifice.

"If they wished to express a powerful, brave, cunning, and avaricious king, they painted the figure of a man with the head of a lion, pointing with one of his fingers to a fox before him. If they wished to express the attributes of understanding, sagacity, and wisdom. they represented a man with the head of an elephant, pointing with one of his fingers to a sitting ape. If they wished to give him the attributes of justice, generosity, and liberality, they drew a man with a bird's head, and before him a balance, a sun, and a moon. If they meant to represent him cruel, faithless, and ignorant, they gave him a dog's, ass's, or boar's head, with a pot of fire and a sword before him.





"A man of perfect wisdom and understanding, accom-

¹⁹ Ahmed ben Waahih.

²⁰ Metam. l. 2

plished in all his ways, and without the least blame, was painted with a beautiful face, with wings like an angel, holding in his hands a book, in which he looked, a sword and a balance, and behind him two vases, one of them full of water and the other of blazing fire, under his right foot a ball with a crab painted on it, and under his left a deep pot full of serpents, scorpions, and different reptiles, the covering of which had the shape of an eagle's head."²¹

Thus every thing was enveloped in mystery, the key of which was initiation; the hidden meaning of the Egyptian hieroglyphics is now pretty well known, and appears to be as follows: The world, governed by the providence of God, was symbolized by a circle, with a hawk-headed serpent in its centre; the sun, by a man or child enthroned upon the lotos, or water-lily; honour and victory, by a palm-tree; power and authority, by a rod or staff; secrecy, by a grasshopper; knowledge, by an ant; fecundity, by a goat; aversion, by a wolf; instability, by a hyena; malice, by a crocodile; destruction, by a mouse; and deformity by a bear. Plenty was represented by the right hand with the fingers open; and protection, by the left hand closed. Ignorance was depicted by a light spot in the midst of a darkened surface. If the omnipresence of God was dilated on, the idea was comprehended under the form of an infinitely extended circle, whose centre is everywhere, but whose circumference is nowhere. His omnipotence was designated by a human foot; and his boundless mercy by a cherub. Did the initiated refer to the four elements? They were portrayed by certain prismatic colours. *White* represented the air; *Blue* the water; *Purple* the earth; and *Crimson* the fire. Again, the visible characters used to represent the elements were these:

 Air.  Water.  Earth.  Fire.



The Four Elements.




Did they contemplate the creation of the world? It was fixed in their minds under the idea of the supreme

²¹ Aben Washih's Hierogl.

Serpent god Cneph, ejecting from his mouth an egg. Did they embody in their imagination the hero god Osiris? He was ever present under the form of a bull, which was considered an incarnation of the god, and a symbol of the sun. If his mystical death and subsequent reviviscency were the subject of their devout thoughts, these fundamental points were figured under a butterfly, and the physical changes which distinguish that remarkable insect. If they contemplated the same mythological personage in the character of the sovereign of the universe, he was designated by a sceptre and an eye; if under the form of the sun, he was symbolized by a frog; or of the Great Father rising regenerated from the waters of the deluge, the symbol was the same reptile emerging from the lotos. The Zodiac was considered as the Great Assembly of the twelve gods, the Sun being supreme, and the Planets his attendants. The human soul was depicted by a hawk, and the universe by a beetle. Life by

this figure . It was also represented by that cele-

brated symbol, the Crux Ansata .²²  represent-

ed Death;  Sin;  Angel; and 

Devil. If immortality were the subject of their contemplation, it was engrafted on their minds by the idea of a Serpent annually casting and renewing his skin. And, if their hearts were exalted to the eternal God, seated on his throne in heaven, he was figured as an august Being of a purple colour, shadowed with beams of glory.²³

Such is an outline of the hieroglyphical system of Egypt, which formed the actuating principle of their scheme of politics as well as religion; but it was stain-

²² This sign, says Sir Archibald Edmonstone, (*Journey to the Two Oases of Upper Egypt*, p. 109,) "originally signifying Life, would appear to be adopted as a Christian emblem, either from its similarity to the shape of the cross, or from its being considered the symbol of a state of future existence."

²³ Hor. Apol. Hierogl.—Apul. Metam.—Ahmed ben Washih.—Plut.—Jambl. de Myst.—Plut. de Isid. et Osir.—Porph. vit. Pyth.—Diod. Sic. Bibl.—Philo. Byblus apud Euseb. de præp. evan.—Clem. Alex. &c.


ed with licentiousness and obscenity, which ultimately brought upon it the execration of the wise and good. I must not omit to mention, however, that this people contrived to embody the whole of their symbols in one mystical diagram, which was esteemed a constellation of the secrets perpetuated in the mysteries. I subjoin the emblem, but leave the explanation of it to your own ingenuity and research.



The system of symbolical instruction, in all other mysteries, was commensurate with this. The emblems which Masons now make use of, as the secret repositories of their treasures of morality, were adopted by the ancients in very early times, as signs and symbols; and were even substituted for alphabetical characters.²⁴ Thus, in the ancient alphabet of the Virgin, the *Square* was used to express the letter S; in the alphabet of Socrates, it stood for Z or th; and as an hieroglyphic it denoted equally a Building and a Learned Man, according to the different situations in which it was placed. A *circle*, supported by two perpendicular parallel lines, denoted Will and Pleasure; and in the Lunar alphabet, the same character represented the letter Y. In the alphabet of

²⁴ Diod. Sic. l. 3. c. 1.

Taurus, a point within a circle stood for R ; in the Lunar alphabet for H ; in the Solar alphabet for B ; in Aristotle's alphabet for W and U ; in that of Hermes for A ; and in the Egyptian hieroglyphics, it represented a Star.

The Triangle, now called a *Trowel*, was an emblem of very extensive application, and was much revered by ancient nations as containing the greatest and most abstruse mysteries. It signified equally the Deity, Creation, and Fire ; in the alphabet of the Moon, it represented the letter S ; and in the hieroglyphics of Egypt, we sometimes see the suppliant presenting a triangle to his god. The *Mallet* was a symbol of Thor, the northern god of thunder. In the alphabet of Belinos, it was used to express the letter M ; in that of Plato, L ; in that of Hermes, B ; in the Indian alphabet, A ; in the alphabet of Hermes Abootat, the *Mallet* united with a *Pickaxe*, denoted R ; in that of Jupiter, N ; and in the Berrabian alphabet, Z. In the alphabet of Pythagoras, the *Compasses* stood for S ; in that of Diosmos the Egyptian, for F ; and in the oldest Chaldean alphabet, the *Square and Compasses* united as they are in our Third Degree of Masonry, was a character used to represent the letter H. In the alphabet of Saturn, the *Plumb* stood for S ; and a *Skull* for T ; in that of India, a *Chissel* stood for A ; in that of Hermes, a double cross supporting a circle  for S H R ; and two *parallel lines* for Y ; and in the Solar alphabet, a Sun represented the first letter, A.²⁵

We have here a fund of pleasant research offered for our investigation, which cannot fail to repay the active Mason for any extent of labour he may be induced to bestow upon it. And I must recommend you to apply yourselves assiduously to this curious and amusing study. In the prosecution of such an useful and instructive pursuit, do not suffer yourself to be abstracted by the idiot laugh of ridicule, or the cynical sneer of contempt ; but proceed in an undeviating course to the investigation of truth, assured that the beautiful results will amply reward your labours. If you practise Masonry for the sake of its convivialities alone, it will soon pall on your

²⁵ Vid. Hammer's Translation of Ancient Alphabets from Ahmed Bin Abubeki Bin Washih.

mind ; for these are introduced into the System, only to cheer and relieve nature after its painful and unwearied researches into the hidden stores of masonic knowledge ; but, if your mind embrace the great principles of Masonry as the chief source of gratification, and use its lighter shades of enjoyment as merely temporary relaxations when the hour of graver labour has expired, you will then enjoy every benefit the science can impart ; your expanding genius will soon be imbued with all the vigour of a healthy intellect, matured and ripened by a rich increase of scientific and religious knowledge ; and your mind, rapidly advancing to perfection, will ultimately be prepared for the full irradiations of complete and never fading glory when time shall be no more.

LECTURE II.

ON THE ALL-SEEING EYE.

"That sacred place where *Three in One*,
Comprised thy comprehensive NAME ;
And where the bright meridian Sun,
Was soon thy glory to proclaim,
Thy watchful EYE, a length of time,
The wondrous circle did attend ;
The Glory and the Power be thine,
Which shall from age to age descend." *Dunckerley.*

"May the sublime idea, that thou walkest before the *Eyes* of the *Omni-present*, strengthen and support thee."

Masonic Exhortations, from the German.

WHEN we look round on the wonderful works of God, as displayed in the formation of this globe which we inhabit ; when we extend our view to the immense arch of heaven, and behold the amazing orbs of light, burning with perpetual refulgence, and illuminating every part of the vast and boundless expanse ; when we contemplate the wonderful productions of Nature, from the stupendous ocean to its minutest inhabitants, from the majestic lion that prowls in the desert, to the most insignificant reptile that hides its diminutive form beneath the surface of the earth ;—we can scarcely resist the impression which such an employment will naturally produce in the mind, that, the origin of these mighty phenomena, which exhibit such a wonderful mechanism in their structure, and such a regularity in their motions, must have been the work of an invisible and all powerful Architect. Do we enquire how came the human frame by all those mysterious properties which sustain and preserve its uniformity of action from one generation to another ;—how came man by the reasoning faculty which elevates him so much above the level of the animal creation ? This could

not be merely fortuitous, for accident seldom produces two inanimate forms that bear any degree of resemblance to each other; and the human body, so complicated, so uniform, so perfect in all its parts and faculties, could, least of all, be the effect of chance, and, therefore, must be the work of *some* superior Being; and he who could form the wonderful machine, and furnish it with reason, must be divine.

The existence and truth of this *omnipresent* Being, are the first steps of Masonry, and ought to be the principal objects of our contemplation. As Masons we are directed to remember that wherever we are, or whatever we are about to do, his All-Seeing Eye observes us; and whilst we continue to act in conformity with the established usages and customs of our Order, we are under an obligation to discharge every moral and social duty, with fervency and zeal.

The emblem now before us, if rightly considered, is of infinite importance both to our present and future welfare. It encourages and enforces an habitual obedience to those moral precepts, which form the beauty and excellence of our system, and impresses the mind with an awful sense of the perpetual inspection and scrutiny, which every thought, word, and action, must inevitably sustain from an infinitely good and perfect Being. The All-Seeing Eye of God is everywhere present. He is equally in the Lodge-room and in the closet; in the broad expanse of heaven, and in the secret recesses of caverns, vaults, and dungeons. He observes every action; he hears every address, whether of sacred prayer, or of impious blasphemy.

The ground of a Lodge is said to be holy, in reference to a certain hill in Judea, where the Deity frequently condescended to communicate with man. First with Enoch, whence he was translated to heaven without passing the gates of death; then with Abraham, when he obeyed the divine command, and actually bound his son Isaac, in whom all the promises centred, for the purpose of sacrifice, but was arrested by a voice from on high; next with King David, when he offered up that acceptable sacrifice which was approved by a supernatural fire from heaven; and lastly, with King Solomon, at the Dedication of the Temple. And on this spot the divine Shekinah

dwelt until the Babylonish Captivity. But, however our Lodges may be hallowed by a reference to these striking events, and hence be esteemed blessed with the continual presence of the Divinity; there is no place however secret, or however barred from human observation, but God is equally and substantially present. The universe, extended beyond the reach of human ideas, where worlds are piled on worlds innumerable, widely distant from the smallest speck in that superb vault of studded lights, which human ingenuity, with all its implements of science can trace, is the solemn temple of the Lord; and here and everywhere His All-Seeing Eye is always present. Here, in the open Arch of heaven, the divine finger may be seen—that glittering canopy, where every orb of light chants forth a song of praise. Here the contemplative Mason lifts up his heart to his Maker, assured that in whatever circumstances he may be placed, if he be the friend of Virtue, he still enjoys the sunshine of God's almighty protection. Should he, like Joseph the son of Jacob, be confined to the solitary cell of a dungeon, His All-Seeing Eye is there; or should he, unhappily, visit the haunts of debauchery and licentiousness, He is there also. Whether the Mason practise virtue or vice; whether he be an ornament to his profession, or disgrace it by acts of fraud and violence, he cannot rid himself of that All-Seeing Eye which is upon him wherever he goes; which follows him into his most secret retirements, and beholds the hidden thoughts and practices of the heart. If, in the spirit of Masonic philanthropy, he present his mite in secret to the worthy distrest, his reward is not lost; for God has beheld the transaction, and shall return it openly in seven-fold blessings. And He is equally present where injustice and wrong are committed. He hears the cry of the virtuous oppressed, and will assuredly interpose, at the most convenient season. These considerations have something so awful in their nature and tendency, that they can scarcely fail to produce a salutary impression. You must feel confounded when you are about to commit an evil action, if, for a moment, you call to mind your masonic lessons, and reflect that the All-Seeing Eye is upon you—that invisible Eye whose power could prevent the greatest enormities; and, not only strike you with instant death, but destroy both soul and body for ever.

The ancient idolaters, in all their various systems of worship, had some faint ideas of an Eternal and *Omnipresent* God, which must necessarily have been derived from the true religion; and was undoubtedly preserved in the mysteries, along with the doctrine of a future state. Pausanius informs us that they worshipped a God who is eternal. His words are remarkable. *Ζεὺς ἦν, Ζεὺς σὺν, Ζεὺς ἰσοεὶς, Ζεὺς ἰσοεὶς*. Orpheus said, God is *ONE*, he is of himself alone, all things are born of him, and he is the governor of the world.¹ Pythagoras, also, to the same effect, says, there is but one God, who created all things.² Plato adds, God is the parent of all things.³ Euripides,⁴ Sophocles,⁵ Lucan,⁶ and other Greek and Latin poets and philosophers say the same thing. The great Cudworth has effectually shown that the Egyptian Mystagogue taught to the initiated, the unity and omnipresence of the godhead. The altar at Athens is an indirect testimony to the same truth; for, amongst the numerous deities with which their pantheon was crowded, they believed in one superior god, of whose precise nature and properties they publicly professed their utter ignorance,⁷ although they admitted his eternity, omnipotence, and *omnipresence*.⁸ But we are furnished with unquestionable evidence, that, notwithstanding their professions, they did actually *know* something of the true and only God. The inspired writings inform us that the Deity was known in idolatrous nations, under his own proper and significant appellation of *JEHOVAH*. Saint Paul says,⁹ that they *knew* God, though they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but worshipped the creature rather than the Creator. And God himself tells us that they possessed the *TETRAGRAMMATON*, Tetractys, or Sacred Name, which, amongst the Jews, was *JAH*; for, he says, "from the rising of the sun, even unto the going down of the same, my Name shall be (or *is*, according to the translation of Cudworth,)

¹ Cyr. cont. Jul. p. 26.² Ibid. p. 85.³ In Tim. p. 1047.⁴ Suppl. Act. 3. v. 734.⁵ Œdip. Tyran.⁶ l. 9. v. 566.⁷ Pausan. Attic.⁸ The definition given by Pythagoras of the omnipresent God, is curious: "A mind which commeth and is diffused through every part of the world, and through all nature, from whom all animals that are produced receive life." (Lactant.)⁹ Rom. i. 21.

great among the Gentiles.¹⁰ And they superstitiously believed that this Name was of such sovereign efficacy, as to enable the possessor to cure diseases, work miracles, and foretel future events. One of the uncanonical books of our scriptures asserts, that the heathen gave this great and incommunicable Name to their idols.¹¹ They considered the chief god as *πολλώνυμον*, or, he that hath many names. Accordingly he was known by a great variety of appellations, all signifying the same Being, whose Eye is in every place, beholding the evil and the good, for the numerous tribes of inferior gods were merely worshipped as mediators. Thus Hesiod says: "there are thirty thousand deities inhabiting the earth, who are subjects to Jupiter, and guardians of men."¹²

The Great Name of the Deity, which is termed by Josephus incommunicable, is said to be preserved in the system of Freemasonry. Calmet observes: "when we pronounce Jehovah, we follow the crowd; for we do not know distinctly the manner wherein this proper and incommunicable Name of God should be pronounced, which is written with Iod, Hi, Vau, Hi, and comes from the verb *haiah*, he has been. The ancients have expressed it differently. Sanchoniathon writes Javo; Diodorus the Sicilian, Macrobius, St. Clemens Alexandrinus, St. Jerom, and Origen, pronounce Iao; Epiphanius, Theodoret, and the Samaritans, Jabe or Jave; we find, likewise, in ancients, Jahoh, Javo, Jaou, Jaod. Lewis Capellus is for Javo; Drusius for Jave; Mercer for Jehevah; Hottinger for Jevah. The Moors call their god Juba, whom some believe to be the same as Jehovah. The Latins, in all probability, took their Jovis, or Jovis Pater, from Jehovah. It is certain that the four Letters which we pronounce Jehovah, may likewise be expressed by Javo, Jaho, Jaon, Jevo, Jave, Jehvah, &c., and that the ancient Hebrews were not unacquainted with the pronunciation of it, since they recited it in their prayers, and in the reading of their sacred books. But the Jews, after the captivity of Babylon, out of an excessive and superstitious respect for this Holy Name, left off the custom of pronouncing it, and forgot the true pronunciation of it."¹³


¹⁰ Mal. i. 11.


¹¹ Wisd. xiv. 21.


¹² Oper. et Dier. l. i. v. 250.


¹³ Calm. Dict. vol. i. p. 749, with authorities.

The Tetragrammaton was preserved and transmitted by the Essenes. It was always communicated in a whisper,¹⁴ and under such a disguised form, that while its component parts were universally known, the connected whole was an incommunicable mystery. They used, in common with the whole Jewish nation, the ancient and significant symbol by which this Name was designated, viz., three jods, with the point kametz placed

underneath them, thus  to express the equality of the three Persons of which they believed the godhead to be composed. This Holy Name they held in the utmost veneration. Calmet says, they believed the Name of God to include all things. "He who pronounces it, say they, shakes heaven and earth, and inspires the very angels with astonishment and terror. There is a sovereign authority in this name; it governs the world by its power. The other names and surnames of the Deity are ranged about it, like officers and soldiers about their sovereigns and generals; from this KING-NAME they receive their orders and obey."¹⁵

Another celebrated symbol of this august Name, was the disposal of the three points in a radiated form, so as to represent an imperial diadem.  This letter Schin,

too, , was adopted as a mysterious emblem to designate the Tetragrammaton; and hence this letter was supposed to comprehend many valuable qualities. It was, therefore, deeply engraven by the Jews on their phylacteries, both before and behind, to induce the protection of the Omnipresent Deity it represented. Another symbol was, an equilateral triangle illuminated with a single

Jod.  This initial letter Jod, "denotes the thought, the idea of God. It is a *Ray of Light*, say the enraptured cabalists, which darts a lustre too transcendent to be contemplated by mortal eye; it is a point at which thought pauses, and imagination itself grows giddy and confounded. Man, says M. Baanage, citing the rabbies, may lawfully roll his thoughts from one end of heaven

¹⁴ R. Tarphon, apud. Ten. Idol. p. 395.

¹⁵ Calm. Diet. vol. i. p. 751.

to the other; but they cannot approach that inaccessible Light, that primitive existence contained in the letter Jod."¹⁶

The chief varieties of this sacred name amongst the inhabitants of different nations, were Jah, and Bel or Baal, and On or Om. The first of these, as we have just seen, had many fluctuations. Jupiter, Jove, Evohe, &c., were but corruptions of Jah or Jehovah.¹⁷ Iao was pronounced, by the Oracle of Apollo, to be the first and greatest of the deities.¹⁸ "The name of Jupiter Sabazius, as Selden justly remarks, is clearly derived from Jehovah Sabaoth, a term perpetually applied to the Most High in the page of revelation, and that the celebrated Tetragrammaton, the incommunicable name יהוה was well known to the Greeks, appears abundantly from the writings of Clemens Alexandrinus and Diodorus Siculus."¹⁹ The Tetragrammaton is said to have been the *pass-word* amongst the Egyptians, to the secret chambers of initiation. Amongst the Apalachites of Florida, the priests of the Sun were called by the remarkable name of Jaovas;²⁰ which was also the name of the deity. The modern Jews say that this word יהוה was engraven on the Rod of Moses, and thus he was enabled to work his miracles; and they add, that Jesus Christ stole the same word out of the Temple, and inserted it in his thigh, between the skin and the flesh, and by its sovereign potency performed all his wonders in Judea.²¹

The compounds of the second name Bel, are of great variety. Bel-us was used by the Chaldeans; and the deity was known amongst the ancient Celts, by the

¹⁶ Maur. Ind. Ant. vol. iv.

¹⁷ The numerous speculations which have been submitted to the world, respecting this sacred name, are curious. One author says, from Jehovah came *Æs*, or *Esus*, a god of the Celts, and *As*, a god of the Goths. Another says, *Esus* or *Hesus* was a corruption of the Celtic *Dhia*, a name for the Supreme Being, and the same with the Hebrew *Jah*; and from the same word the Latin *Deus* was derived. A third asserts that the name *Hesus*, a corruption, as above, of *Dhia* or *Jah*, comes from the Syrian *Hizzus* or *Haziz*, signifying strong and powerful in war; from which word the Phenicians had their name of *Mars*, as out of *Jamblicus*, Julian the Apostate shows in his oration of the Sun. This was the triad. *HESUS—TETRAGRAMIS—BELIEMES, unus tantummodo deus.*

¹⁸ Macrob. Saturn. l. 18.

¹⁹ Ten. Idol. c. 4.

²⁰ Fab. Hor. Mos. p. i. s. l. c. 2.

²¹ Cal. Dict. vol. i. p. 750.

name of Bel or Bel-enus,²² which title, by the modern authors, is identified with Apollo. The primitive name of Britain, was *Fel ymys*, the island of Bel; and the fires lighted up on May-day, were in honour of this deity, and called Bel's fire.²³ The inhabitants made use of a word, known only to themselves, to express the unutterable name of the Deity, of which the letters O. I. W. were a sacred symbol. In this they resembled the Jews, who always said Adonai, when the name of Jehovah occurred.²⁴ Another variation was Bal or Baal, as Bal-rama, used by the Indians; Bal-der; by the Goths; Baal and Baalzebub, by the Sidonians; Baal-berith, the god of the Shechemites; Baal-peor or Baal-reem, of the Moabites; Baal-tis, of the Phœnicians; and Baal-zephon, of the Egyptians. Baal was the most ancient god of the Canaanites and was referred to the Sun. Manasseh raised altars to this deity, and worshipped him in all the pomp of heathen superstition; and, when these altars were destroyed by Josiah, the worship of Baal is identified with that of the Sun.²⁵

The third variation was On. Under this appellation the Deity was worshipped by the Egyptians; and they professed to believe that he was eternal, and the fountain of light and life; but, according to their gross conceptions, being necessarily visible, the Sun was adored as his representative, and was, most probably, the same as Osiris. They knew the general purport of the name and little more. If they believed On to be the living and

²² Many towers in England derive their names from this deity, for Belenus was no other than the sun, according to Elias Schedius; who imagines, in his book *De diis Germanorum*, that he found in the name Belenus the 365 days of the year, in like manner as the Basilideans formerly found them in those of Abraxas and Mithras. For this purpose Schedius writes *βηλενος* with an *η* that he may perfect that number, thus:

B	H	A	E	N	O	E
2,	8,	30,	5,	50,	70,	200 = 365.

Montf. Ant. vol. ii. p. 267.

²³ These fires were originally lighted on the eves of the first of May and the first of November; perhaps because the latter of those days was turned into mourning; for tradition, and some chronicles say, that the British Chiefs were treacherously slain at Stonehenge on that day.—*Owen's Dict. v. Coelcerth.*

²⁴ *Introd. to Meyrick's Cardigan.*

²⁵ 2 *Chron. xxxiii. 35.*—2 *Kings xxiii. 5, 11.*

eternal God, they allowed the same attributes to the Sun, which they undoubtedly worshipped as the Lord of the creation. Oannes was the god of the Chaldeans; and Dag-On of the Philistines, both of which are derivations of the same name. On was, evidently, the same deity as the Hebrew Jehovah; and was introduced amongst the Greeks by Plato, who acknowledges his eternity and incomprehensibility in these remarkable words: "Tell me of the God On, which is, and never knew beginning."²⁶ And the same name was used by the early Christians for the true God; for St. John, in the Apocalypse,²⁷ has this expression: *Ὁ ὢν, καὶ ὁ ἦν, καὶ ὁ ἐρχόμενος*, which is translated in our authorized version of the scriptures, by "Him, which is, and which was, and which is to come."

The same word, with a small variation, was one of the names of the Supreme Deity in India; and a devout meditation on it was considered capable of conveying the highest degree of perfection. In the Ordinances of Menu, we are informed how this sacred word was produced. "Brahma milked out, as it were, from the three Vedas, the letter A, the letter U, and the letter M; which form, by their coalition, the trilateral monosyllable, together with three mysterious words, *bhur, bhuvah, swer*; or, earth, sky, heaven."²⁸ These three letters, which are pronounced Om, refer to the deity in his triple capacity of Creator, Preserver, and Destroyer. The method of using it is given in the same code. "Three suppressions of breath, made according to the divine rule, accompanied with the triverbal phrase, *bhurbhuvahswah* and the trilateral syllable Om, may be considered as the highest devotion of a Brahmen."²⁹ Mr. Colebrooke informs us that "a Brahmana, beginning and ending a lecture of the Veda, or the recital of any holy strain, must always pronounce to himself the syllable Om; for, unless the syllable Om precede, his learning will slip away from him; and unless it follow, nothing will be retained; or that syllable being prefixed to the several names of worlds³⁰ are manifestations of the power, signified by that syllable."³¹

²⁶ In Timæo. v. iii. p. 27.

²⁷ i. 4.

²⁸ Sir W. Jones' Works, vol. iii. p. 92.

²⁹ Ibid., vol. iii. p. 235.

³⁰ Asiatic Res. vol. v. p. 352.

³¹ Vide Infra, Lect. viii.

From what has been said, we may reasonably infer, that, together with the name, the idolaters preserved in their mysteries some indistinct knowledge of the god-head, derived from the true system which preceded them; and accompanied with an acknowledgment that he possessed the attribute of omnipresence—the Symbol of which was the same as that used in the Science of Freemasonry, viz., an EYE, which was said to be equally in every place, for the purpose of taking a strict and impartial cognizance of human actions

Fix your eyes, then, on that part of the Lodge where this expressive Emblem is delineated. It will remind you that the Deity is watching over us, and will weigh, in the balance of Truth, every action, every word, every thought. As Masons, you are fully impressed with this important consideration, because it is fundamental to the Science you profess. It is inculcated upon you in all our illustrations, and can never be banished from your recollection. You are conscious of the presence of that great and glorious Being; you are conscious that at this very moment he is employed in examining your hearts. They are open to his inspection. But are they pure—are they impressed with the never-failing virtues of *Faith, Hope, and Charity*—are they the abode of *Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice*, those splendid Cardinal Virtues, by which your Masonry professes to be distinguished—does *Brotherly Love* burn brightly there—do they prompt you to exercise the first, best gift of heaven to your destitute Brethren, *Relief*—and does *Truth* hold her seat in your bosoms? If you are Masons in reality, Masons in the strictest acceptance of the term, your hearts are the seat of every moral and social virtue, and will not shrink from the close inspection of the All-Seeing Eye of God. But we cannot emulate absolute perfection; and, therefore, our hearts neither are, nor perhaps should be the abode of celestial purity, unalloyed by human weakness or hereditary contamination. Hence, whether as Masons or as men, we cannot but entertain some feelings of dread, under the reflection that we are subjected to the constant and perpetual superintendence of the All-Seeing Eye. And this is not a sensation either improper or peculiar to ourselves. The best and most virtuous Masons the world ever pro-

duced, as well as wicked men, have entertained the same feelings. When Adam fell from his primitive state of Innocence, in the first agitation of remorse, he attempted to hide himself from the presence of God,⁸² because he dreaded the consequence of His fearful inspection. Cain heard his tremendous voice, and shrunk into himself with terror.⁸³ Jacob saw the Lord in a vision, and when he awoke from his sleep he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and the gate of heaven!⁸⁴ Moses, under the impression of God's presence, trembled exceedingly, and confessed his very great apprehension.⁸⁵ David was horribly afraid under similar circumstances.⁸⁶ And many instances occur of individuals being struck with instant death, for their presumption in the immediate presence of God. Uzzah but touched the Ark of the Covenant over which the Lord dwelt, and was struck dead in a moment.⁸⁷ And the Almighty smote and slew fifty thousand men of Bethsheah, because they irreverently looked into the ark.⁸⁸

These instances are amply sufficient to convince you, not merely of the universal presence of the Deity, but of his decided abhorrence of all impurity and carelessness of living. If, therefore, as Masons, you are willing to be the Objects of his fatherly superintendence, let these reflections accompany all your *labours*, all your *recreations*;—and when the business of the day is about to be closed, let us, with all humility and reverence, return our grateful acknowledgments to the great Architect of the Universe, for favours already received, and supplicate his support on our endeavours to adorn and cement our lives and actions, with every moral and social virtue.

⁸² Gen. iii. 8. ⁸³ Ibid., iv. 13. ⁸⁴ Ibid., xxviii. 17. ⁸⁵ Heb. xii. 21.

⁸⁶ 2 Sam. vi. 9.—Psalm v. 7. ⁸⁷ 2 Sam. vi. 6. ⁸⁸ 1 Sam. vi. 19.

LECTURE III.

ON THE SERPENT.

"So spake the enemy of mankind, enclosed
In SERPENT inmate bad, and towards Eve
Address'd his way, not with indented wave,
Prone on the ground, as since, but on his rear
Circular base of rising folds, that tower'd
Fold above fold, a surging maze, his head
Crested aloft, and carbuncle his eyes,
With burnished neck of verdant gold, erect
Amidst his circling spires, that on the grass
Floated abundant; pleasing was his shape
And lovely."

Milton.

THE Serpent is universally esteemed a legitimate symbol of Freemasonry; yet, though commonly introduced into all the groups of emblematical characters which the fancy of ingenious Brethren may have designed, either for amusement or instruction, its origin and secret reference are not satisfactorily accounted for in the peculiar lectures of Masonry. The subject may be involved in some uncertainty, but an attention to the general principles on which our science has been founded, may do much towards unravelling the mystery, and may chance to produce a genuine illustration. One great result of the enquiry will certainly be, that the emblematical Serpent will be found to have had a place in the most ancient systems of primitive Masonry, and was a symbol almost coequal with its institution on this globe, by the first created man.

You are not ignorant that the Serpent has an established place amongst our emblems, although its true allegorical reference is not given in our accustomed disquisitions. It may be urged that this animal is the symbol of Wisdom, as the Dove is of Innocence, because our

Saviour connects these qualities with the same creatures.¹ But this is to be satisfied with a very contracted explanation of a significant emblem, which certainly represents our fall in Adam, and our restoration in Christ—a subject of no ordinary importance, but one which embraces a comprehensive scheme, framed by the Divine hand, and conveying the blessing of eternal happiness in a future state.

When our first parents were placed in the garden of Eden, as the abode of purity and peace, with angels for associates, and honoured with the peculiar presence of the Deity, their tenure was secured by the observance of one single condition, which was imposed merely as a test of their obedience—they were forbidden to eat of the fruit which grew upon the Tree of Knowledge. How simple soever this prohibition may appear, they were induced by the flattering wiles of the devil, who assumed the form of A SERPENT for this specific purpose, to forego, or at least, to render precarious all the actual felicity they enjoyed, for the deceitful hope of some greater acquisition of knowledge or power, which was promised by the tempter, as the certain result of violating the divine command.

Various have been the opinions advanced by theorists on this knotty question—by what kind of animal was our great mother betrayed? I shall lay before you a few of the most remarkable speculations of learned men, because they bear upon the subject under our notice, and may engage your attention or curiosity. “Some believe that the Serpent had then the use of speech, and conversed familiarly with the woman, without her conceiving any distrust of him, and that God, to punish the malice with which he abused Eve, deprived him of the use of speech. Others believe that the devil transformed himself into a Serpent, and spoke to Eve under the *figure* of this animal. Others maintain that a real and common Serpent, having eaten of the forbidden fruit, Eve from thence concluded that she, too, might eat of it without danger; that in effect she did eat of it, and incurred the displeasure of God by her disobedience. This, say these authors, is the plain matter of fact, which Moses would

¹ Matt. x. 16.

relate under the allegorical representation of the Serpent conversing with Eve. Cajetan will have this whole story, as it is related by Moses in the way of dialogue between the woman and the Serpent, to be figurative only, to signify the inward suggestions of the devil, and the woman's weak resistance. Others affirm that the Serpent's speech was nothing but hissing, and that Eve, understanding all creatures by their voices, apprehended what this animal had to say to her by the noise it made. Lyranus reports the opinion of some to be, that the Serpent put on the face of a beautiful young woman to tempt Eve. And some Rabbins believe that Samael, prince of devils, came in person to tempt Eve, mounted on a Serpent as large as a camel!"² Eugubinus thinks the animal was a basilisk;³ and to crown this mass of absurdity, Dr. Adam Clarke gravely tells his readers that the tempter was not a Serpent, but an ape!!⁴

However this may be—and perhaps I may offer a suggestion to clear the difficulty before I conclude—it is certain that our first parents lost their innocence, and, instead of the expected good, gained in return the certainty only that they had forfeited the protection of God, and were in reality blind and miserable, naked and in despair. Driven now accursed into a world of troubles and calamities, the unhappy consequences of their want of faith, their eyes were, indeed, opened, but it was to a bitter sense of misery and shame; they were become liable to sin and sorrow, sickness and death; they beheld with deep remorse the dying agonies of those animals which were slain for sacrifice, pursuant to the divine command, certain that their own dissolution must follow, attended probably with similar pangs; and, with broken hearts and uplifted hands, they cried to their offended God for mercy. The Deity listened to the humble petition of his fallen creatures, because he saw that their repentance was sincere, and gave them a revelation, that the effects of their sin should be wiped away, and their posterity restored to his favour. He promised that the woman's seed should bruise the Serpent's head, which was so exhilarating to our common mother, that, at the

² Calm. Dict. vol. i. p. 37.

³ Brown's Vulg. Err. p. v. c. 4.

⁴ Family Bible. Note on Gen. iii. 1.

birth of Cain, her eldest son, she entertained a belief that in him the promise was fulfilled, which would restore to her the joys she had forfeited, and in an ecstasy of delirious joy, she exclaimed: "I have gotten a man, *even the Lord Jehovah*;" for such is the true meaning of the original Hebrew in Gen. iv. 1. The vices of Cain would speedily convince her that this was not the promised seed; and she acquiesced with silence and submission in the dispensations of Providence. The prophecy, however, was triumphantly fulfilled in the Messiah, who came to destroy, and did, even in his human character, gain a decisive victory over *the Serpent*, the adversary of God and man.

The great scheme of this Evil Spirit was to rob man of the happiness he enjoyed in Paradise, and by that means to counteract the design of God in the creation. He succeeded in the first instance, but the main part of his plan was defeated by Jesus Christ, who has reconciled man to God, and by the efficacy of his *birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension*, typified by the Five Grand Pillars of Masonry, he has utterly destroyed the works of that old Serpent, the devil,⁵ circumscribed his power, and bound him in everlasting chains and darkness unto the judgment of the last day.⁶

Hence this emblem amongst Masons has an undoubted reference to the establishment of Christianity, which gave a death blow to the power of the Evil Spirit. The Serpent had engrossed the worship of all mankind; and, by his oracles,⁷ had enslaved their minds in the fetters of

⁵ Rev. xx. 2.

⁶ Jude 6.

⁷ Potter (Archæol. Græc. l. 2. c. 9.) gives a fearful account of the connection between serpents and oracles. He says that "under the tripods where the Pythia delivered her responses, sometimes appeared a dragon that returned answers; and that the Pythia was once killed by him. And Eusebius reports *δράκοντα πρὸς τὸν τρίποδα*, that a serpent rolled himself about the tripod." How potent soever might be the spirit which communicated inspiration to the Pythia, many instances are on record where the priestess refused to yield obedience to his injunctions. Bribes have been accepted by several of the Pythiæ; who, for a stipulated remuneration, did *Παρασκευάζειν*, or deliver their oracles at the dictation of their employers; and Nero dared the vengeance of the spirits of the sacred cavern by openly polluting it with the blood of men slain at the cavern's mouth. But when barbarism gave way to civilization, these Oracles certainly began to fail; and at the appearance of Jesus Christ to show mankind their fallacy, and guide them by the light of truth under

superstition and overwhelming darkness. But the incarnation of Christ, by striking his oracles dumb,⁸ relieved his deluded votaries from the effects of his potent agency; and he himself was reluctantly compelled to announce his degradation; for, when Augustus consulted the oracle at Delphi, it answered that a child was born in Judea, who, being the Supreme God, had commanded him to depart, and he durst not disobey.⁹

You may deem it something more than accidental, that there should exist a tradition of the Messiah bruising the Serpent's head, and the Serpent bruising his heel, equally in the east and in the west; amongst the Indians, the Greeks, and the Goths of Scandinavia. And yet it is an indisputable fact, that each of these nations preserved in their respective systems of religion this very remarkable prophecy.¹⁰ In the former country the Brahmins have in their temples some sculptured figures, which are unquestionably descriptive of this event. One of them represents their middle god Vishnu or Kreesna with his foot on the Serpent's head; and another has the same god encompassed in the folds of a serpent, which is in the act of biting his heel.¹¹ In the same mythology, a monster compounded of a man and an eagle, called Garuda, is represented as being placed at the eastern portal of the garden of Eden, *to prevent the intrusion of Serpents*; to which animals he was supposed to bear a decided antipathy. After a long conflict, however, he destroyed them all except one, which he slung round his neck as a tro-

the high sanction of revelation, they became wholly silent, and were heard no more. (Plut. de orac. defec.) Juvenal, in his sixth Satire, says, Delphis oracula cessant. And Strabo (l. 7.) says, that in the time of Augustus Cæsar the oracle at Dodona ceased to give responses.

⁸ Strabo. l. vii.

⁹ Suid. in voc. Delphi.

¹⁰ How extraordinary that every remarkable event which actually occurred in the infancy of the world, was accurately preserved by idolatrous nations, how widely soever they had departed from that peculiar people to whom the conservation of the antediluvian history was committed. A Son of the first man was violently assailed and slain by his brother, as we are told by Moses. Accordingly other nations have a corresponding tradition. Sanchoniatho has recorded that a Son of Uranas was killed by his brothers. In Diodorus we find Hesperion meets a similar fate; and the Persian annals represent Siameck the son of Oai-Amurath, the first king of Persia, as being killed by giants.—Howard's *Thoughts on the Structure of the Globe*, p. 229.

¹¹ Vid. Maurice's *Hist. of Hindostan*, Plates, vol. ii. p. 290.

phy.¹² This fable evidently refers to the expulsion of Adam from Paradise, the cherubim placed to exclude his contaminated race, and the ultimate destruction of them all, except the Patriarch Noah.

The Greek mythology furnishes us with another instance of this primitive doctrine, in its fable of the garden of Hesperides. Here existed a tree which bore golden apples; but it was guarded from violation by a Serpent, whose folds encircled the trunk of the sacred tree. Hercules successfully engaged the Serpent, and having slain him took away the precious fruit. This event being deemed of sufficient importance to be perpetuated, was introduced into the Celestial Sphere, where Hercules is represented as *trampling on the Serpent's head*.

In Scandinavia, Thor, who is worshipped as a mediator, is said to have bruised the head of the great Serpent with his club;¹³ and in a final engagement with the monster, it is predicted that he shall overcome and slay him; though himself shall perish from the poisonous exhalations which proceed out of his mouth during the terrible encounter.¹⁴

Thus far the application of this Symbol is exceedingly satisfactory, and worthy of an introduction into a system which was instituted to keep alive in our hearts a veneration for the Supreme Being, and an unmixed love of virtue and pure morality. But we must now extend our views to distant regions, and mark in what manner, and for what purposes, this same Symbol was introduced into other institutions, bearing the character of Freemasonry, until the absolute *worship of the Serpent* became a superstition prevalent throughout the whole world.

Justin Martyr tells us,¹⁵ that among all the things which were accounted sacred amongst the Greeks, the Serpent was particularly considered as a very mysterious emblem. It is, indeed, most singular, that Serpents should be either real or symbolical objects of devotion, in almost every known system of false religion. They were universal emblems of life and health; received the appellation of the beneficent dæmon, and were visible representatives of the god of creation and providence. And it is

¹² Moor's Hind. Panth, p. 336.

¹⁴ Ibid. Fab. 32.

¹³ Edda. Fab. 27.

¹⁵ Apol. i. p. 60.

still more remarkable that there was always attached to the Serpent, an undefined idea of some restoration to the divine favour, which was expected to be accomplished by a gratuitous sacrifice.

If you will accompany me in my progress from one country to another, we will endeavour to produce a complete illustration of this Symbol founded on the facts which I have already laid before you. Egypt was the great conservator of ancient idolatry; and here we will commence our researches. In Egypt the Serpent formed a Symbol of the most awful images in existence.¹⁶ Cneph was the Serpent-god of this people; he was the second person of the sacred Triad, and said to be the Creator of the world.¹⁷ He was usually represented by a hooded snake, sometimes called Basiliscus, or the Royal Serpent. The Egyptian temples were full of representations of this god.¹⁸ Eternity was ever present to the mind of the devout worshipper, under the similitude of a Serpent with its tail in its mouth, or an endless Serpent enclosing an Eye; and Wisdom was represented by the same animal extended at length. Did he meditate on the mysterious Tri-Une deity, Eicton-Cneph-Phtha, he was presented to the worshipper's recollection by the figure of a Globe and a Winged Serpent; the Globe symbolized the Supreme and eternal God; the Serpent, the animating principle; and the Wings, the hovering Spirit of God, which moved on the face of the waters at the creation of the world.

Bend we now our course towards the farthest bounds of the East, to learn what the Persians, the Indians, and the Chinese believed about this noxious reptile. In the former country, the Serpent was worshipped,¹⁹ and considered an emblem of the Sun, which was esteemed the supernal habitation of their great god Mithras.²⁰ And the visible Symbol was the deity enveloped in the folds of an enormous snake.²¹ In India, the Serpent was elevated into an object of adoration;²² and the splendid temples at Elora contain many specimens of Serpent-deities. In the second story of Teen Tal, at the south end of the

¹⁶ Kirch. in *Œdip. syn.* 18. p. 508. Herod in *Euterp.*

¹⁷ Euseb. *præp. evan.* l. iii. c. 11.

¹⁸ Vid. Belzoni's *Researches in Egypt, Plates.*

¹⁹ Euseb. *præp. evan.* l. i. c. 10.

²⁰ Strabo. l. xv. Said. in *voc.*

²¹ Montf. *Ant.* vol. ii. p. 368. ²² Maurice's *Indian Ant.* vol. v. p. 1015.

veranda, is a very large figure of *Sey Deo*, or more commonly *Sayhudea*, the immortal Serpent.²⁵ In the temple of Jagnat, innumerable figures of Serpents are inscribed on the walls,²⁶ which display the antiquity and prevalence of this degraded worship in the vast regions of Hindostan. Vishna and Siva are equally represented as encompassed by curling Serpents, to denote their divine original.

In China, we again find this loathsome reptile raised to divine honours and worship. A Ring supported by two Serpents, was an awful symbol amongst the Chinese, emblematical of the World protected by the *power* and governed by the *wisdom* of the Creator. This people were indeed most superstitiously attached to the worship of dragons or serpents. The sixty-four Symbols of the god Fo-Hi, who is said to have had the body of a Serpent,²⁷ were revealed by this animal emerging from the bottom of a sacred lake. And thunder or rain, fair and foul weather, are equally attributed to the influence of the Serpent.²⁸

From the East proceed we to the West, making a short excursion to New Zealand, as we traverse the vast ocean which separates China and Japan from the continent of America. These savages have no written records, and yet from oral tradition alone they know that the Serpent once spake with the human voice; and hence they adore him as a superior being. But he is their god of sorrow. They believe also that man was first created, and that woman was formed out of one of his ribs, separated from his side by the Deity himself, to be his companion and friend, while as yet there existed no mortal but himself.²⁹

In the savage regions of America we find abundant traces of this superstition. The two parents of the human race, were said by the Mexicans to have been preserved from the effects of the deluge by means of Serpents; which induced the adoration of this animal. The visible symbol of that preservation, was a Rainbow, with a Serpent suspended from each end of it. The temples of their bloody and vindictive deities were

²⁵ Seeley's *Elora*, p. 175.

²⁶ *Ibid.* p. 216.

²⁷ Couplet. *Præf. ad Tab. Chron.* p. 3. in *Fab. Pag. Idol.* vol. i. p. 453.

²⁸ Du Halde's *China*, vol. i. p. 270.

²⁹ *Marsden in Christ. Observ.* 1810, Nov. p. 724.

covered with representations of Serpents,²⁸ in all their terrible varieties; and their high god Vitzliputzli was portrayed in the shape of a man, whose hideous countenance was rendered truly horrible and disgusting, by certain black lines drawn across his forehead and his nose. He was seated on a Globe, which was a symbol of his universal power, over a lofty altar supported by four long poles, each end of which was ornamented with a serpent's head. His right hand grasped a serpent, and his left a buckler with arrows, all charged with emblematical devices, each conveying some mysterious signification, and inculcating some useful lesson known only to the initiated.²⁹

This general veneration of so filthy a reptile, is somewhat astonishing, but you may rely on my accuracy and fidelity. I have spared no pains in the research; and, if I had not honestly believed it was in my power to add to your stock of Masonic knowledge, as well as to interest and amuse your minds, I should not have offered these Lectures to your notice. I have, however, still more extraordinary facts to relate.

Returning to our own quarter of the globe, we find Serpent worship so very prevalent in the early ages of the world, as to impose a distinguishing appellation on the whole continent; for Europe is said to have derived its name from the worship of *Eur-Op*, the Serpent of the Sun.³⁰

The inhabitants of ancient Scandinavia accounted living Serpents sacred, and fed them daily with milk.³¹ The Serpent formed a constituent part of their sacred Triad. The priests practised augury by its assistance, because they considered it endued with some portion of celestial prescience. By virtue of certain incantations they tempted the Serpents from their hiding places, and offered them choice provisions. If they came freely and partook of what was set before them, it was accounted a good omen; but, if they exhibited any appearance of reluctance, and lurked about, or returned to their holes without accepting the proffered food, the omen was

²⁸ Gage's *Surv. of the West Indies*, p. 117.

²⁹ *Purch. Pilgr.* b. viii. c. 11. p. 796. ³⁰ *Fab. Cabir.* vol. i. p. 180.

³¹ *Olaus Magnus, Hist. Septentr.* l. xxi. c. 30.

deemed unpropitious, and portended some fatal disaster. In the most barbarous districts, it is said that the remains of this superstition exist at the present day.

In Gaul Serpents were emblematical of wisdom and truth. A curious statue, representing the goddess of Truth, has been discovered amongst the ruins of the ancient temple of Montmorillon in Poitou; and Montfaucon has given a plate of it.³² "The goddess is quite naked; and *two serpents* (emblems of wisdom), twined round her legs and body, are embraced by both her hands to show the harmony, connection, and inseparable union between wisdom and truth; the heads of both these serpents are applied to the breasts of the goddess, to show that wisdom draws all her support from truth; they are clasped fast and directed to the seat of nourishment, to show that truth readily yields her choicest treasures, her most amiable beauties to the searches of the wise and studious."³³

We will close our enquiries in the country where we live, for, our predecessors, the ancient Britons, carried this superstition to as great an extent as the inhabitants of any other nation. The Druids had a high veneration for the Serpent. Their great god Hu was typified by that reptile; and he is represented by the Bards as "the wonderful chief *Dragon*, the sovereign of heaven."³⁴ Dr. Stukeley says, that "the stupendous temple at Abury, in Wiltshire, is the picture of the *Deity*; and more particularly of the Trinity; but most particularly what they anciently called the *Father* and the *Word*, who created all things. This figure you will find on the tops of all the obelisks, being equivalent to the Hebrew Tetragrammaton. *A snake proceeding from a circle*, is the internal procession of the Son from the First Cause. The Egyptians frequently added Wings to it, then it was the Trinity properly; but our ancestors judged, I suppose, that they could not represent the wings well in stone work, so omitted them. The Egyptians called this figure, *Hemphtha*; the Greeks, in abbreviated writing used it for *Daimon*, or the good genius; the Brachmans, in the East Indies use it; the Chinese; the ancient Persians, with

³² Mont. Supplem. tom. ii. p. 221.

³³ Borl. Ant. of Corn. p. 108.

³⁴ Davies' Druids, p. 120, 121.

whom it still remains at Persepolis; the Americans; our Britons: this shows it was extremely ancient; but of all nations, our ancestors have had the greatest veneration for it, that they have expanded it in so laborious a picture, three miles long."²⁵

The most potent symbol or amulet of Druidism was the Anguinum or Glain-neidr, which derived its sole efficacy from its connection with the Serpent. It was attended by a serpent, which had entwined itself round the centre of the amulet, as the conservator of its virtues; and signified the superintending care which an *eternal* Being affords to his creatures. The anguinum was said to be produced from the Saliva of a large ball of Serpents closely interwoven together; and being impelled into the air by the hissing of the serpents, was received by a horseman in a pure white cloth, who was obliged to retire precipitately from the spot, to escape the fury of the serpents, who usually pursued the fugitive until they were impeded by a river which they were unable to cross.²⁶

The Serpent with its tail in its mouth, was an emblem of Eternity with the Druids; and it read to the initiated a striking lesson on the certainty of death; teaching them the universal fiat of nature, that every one who is born into the world must return to the place from whence he came, and be resolved into his original dust.

The reason to be assigned for the general worship of the Serpent, may, with some probability, be as follows: Man, having brought himself under the domination of Satan, not only by listening to his suggestions in the garden, but by a subsequent renunciation of the primitive worship; and feeling that he was accursed without possessing in himself the means of restoration to the divine favour, was willing to propitiate the being to whom all his misery was to be attributed, and who was hence esteemed the arbiter of his fate, by offering for his acceptance the rites of divine worship. Hence we find that in every system of idolatry, the chief deities were said to have taken up their abode in the bodies of Serpents; and a serpent attached to the statue of a god in any part of

²⁵ Letter from Dr. Stukeley to Mr. Gale, Stamford, June 25, 1730.

²⁶ *Vid. Antiq. of Masonry*, p. 122, note.

the world, was considered an unequivocal mark of his divinity; from which belief, the devil, in holy Scripture, is usually denominated a Serpent or Dragon.²⁷

The antiquity of Serpent worship cannot be safely asserted; but it might commence very soon after the institution of idolatry, for Taut or Thoth was esteemed by the Phœnicians as the first person who introduced the worship of Serpents amongst mankind;²⁸ and Thoth or Pathrusim was the great grandson of Noah. It may be reasonably conjectured, however, that the veneration of this animal might date its original even from Paradise; for it is an ancient opinion,²⁹ that the Angels of heaven who conversed with Adam before his unhappy fall, assumed the bright form of winged serpents. On any other principle, it will be difficult to conceive how our great mother should so familiarly admit the approaches of an animal, which, she would otherwise be certain, could neither speak nor act rationally. But if the angels associated with Adam in this specific form, the difficulty vanishes; for, our grand adversary, by assuming a shape which would elude suspicion, might reasonably expect to succeed in accomplishing his perfidious purposes. And hence it should appear that this animal, which, from the splendour of its colours, and the geometrical exactness of the figures which nature has painted on the outer surface of its skin, is possessed of great external beauty, was, before the fall, an object of unmixed admiration and delight unequalled by any other created animal. It was subsequently to that melancholy deviation from God's commands, that the Serpent became an object of horror and loathing to mankind, and was unquestionably worshipped by the first idolaters in the way of propitiation.

It must here be observed, that in the mythology of heathen nations, two kinds of Serpents were introduced, endowed with different and contrary attributes. The one was malignant, a symbol of the evil principle, and accounted instrumental in producing the universal deluge; the other beneficent, and supposed to possess every good and estimable quality. And these powers are represented as engaged in acts of continued hostility.

²⁷ Rev. xii. 9. xiii. 4.

²⁸ Euseb. præp. evan. l. i. c. 10. ²⁹ Vid. Tenison's Idolatry, c. 14.

In the ages immediately subsequent to the flood, the sons of Noah would propagate amongst their posterity the fact, that the knowledge of good and evil was acquired by the original parents of mankind through the intervention of a Serpent, endowed with Speech, Wisdom, and Foresight. Such a representation, proceeding from authority, would naturally induce a high degree of respect and veneration for an animal possessing these extraordinary attributes; which would soon degenerate into actual worship, when the true God was entirely forsaken. This may be assumed as the true cause of Serpent worship; and, it is highly probable that both Jews and Christians, as well as acknowledged idolaters, have adored this animal on precisely the same principle.

Amongst the nations contiguous to the Jews, it might have a further reference to the Seraphim or ministering Angels of that people; for, *Saraph* signifies equally a fiery Serpent,⁴⁰ and an Angel.⁴¹ And the miraculous cures effected by the Brazen Serpent would give an additional impulse to the practice; particularly when we consider that at a subsequent period, the Israelites themselves elevated this very symbol into an object of idolatrous worship.⁴² And I may add, with a learned mythologist, often quoted, that "since the fiery and flitting appearance of the Seraphim stationed before the garden of Eden would bear a considerable resemblance to that of the fiery flying Serpent; and, since the very same appellation was employed to designate each of them, it was not unnatural to conclude, that the form of the flying Serpent entered into the composition of the Seraphic or Cherubic emblems. We have no warrant, indeed, from Scripture, to suppose that this was really the case; yet the notion itself, however erroneous, seems to have been of very great antiquity; and the existence of such a notion would obviously cause the serpent, particularly the winged serpent, to be viewed as a fit symbol of the Agathodæmon."⁴³

Before I conclude this account of Serpent worship, I cannot omit to lay before you a very curious and extraordinary account of the same superstition, as practised by

⁴⁰ Numb. xxi. 6, 8.

⁴² 2 Kings xviii. 4.

⁴¹ Isaiah vi.

⁴³ Fab. Pag. Idol. p. li. c. 7.

a sect of Christians who were denominated Ophitæ, "both from the veneration they had for the Serpent that tempted Eve, and the worship they paid to a *real Serpent*. They pretended that the Serpent was Jesus Christ, and that he taught men the knowledge of good and evil. They distinguished between *Jesus* and *Christ*: Jesus, they said, was born of the Virgin, but Christ came down from heaven to be united with him; Jesus was crucified, but Christ had left him to return to heaven. They had a live Serpent which they kept in a kind of cage; at certain times they opened the cage-door, and called the Serpent: the animal came out and mounting upon the table, twined itself about some loaves of bread: this bread they broke, and distributed it to the company, who all kissed the Serpent in turn. This they called their Eucharist."

Thus have I exhibited, for your consideration, a very comprehensive account of the origin and uses of this emblem in every nation of the ancient world. Amongst Masons, as I have already observed, it serves to remind us of our fall in Adam and our restoration in Christ; who has not only bruised the Serpent's head, but has restricted his power, and frustrated his malevolent intentions, by revealing to mankind the conditions of salvation, purchased by his own sufferings and death.

* Encyc. Perth. in voc. Ophitæ.

LECTURE IV.

ON THE CHERUBIM.

“————— Forth rush'd with whirlwind sound
The chariot of paternal deity,
Flashing thick flames, wheel within wheel indrawn,
Itself instinct with spirit, but convoy'd
By four CHERUBIC shapes ; four faces each
Had wondrous : as with stars their bodies all,
And wings were set with eyes ; with eyes the wheels
Of beryl, and careering fires between.”

Milton.

EVERY branch of science is progressive. In the First Degree of Masonry, we are taught the several duties of our station, whether to God, our neighbour, or ourselves ; the practice of the Theological and Cardinal Virtues, and every moral and social work. In the Second Degree we are admitted to a participation in the mysteries of human science ; and catch a glimpse of celestial glory. But in the Third Degree, the veil is removed ; we are admitted to the Holy of Holies ; we view the Cherubim in all their brightness ; and are blessed with a foretaste of heaven, through the resurrection of the dead. And, if we pass on to the Royal Arch, we receive a wonderful accession of knowledge, *and find every thing made perfect ;* for this is the *ne plus ultra* of Masonry, and can never be exceeded by any human Institution.

In the peculiar Lectures of Masonry, much importance is attached to that great symbol of the glory of God, the Cherubim. It is a subject which adds much to the dignity and authority of our Science ; inasmuch as its illustration has formed an important part of Speculative Masonry, from the moment that it flamed in awful grandeur on the *Eastern* portal of the garden of Eden to the present time.

It is a curious phenomenon in the worship of heathen nations, that their ideas of the Deity, as comprehended under a visible form, were invariably derived from the Symbols of the Patriarchal or the Jewish religion, and principally from the system used by the former, which was the grand trunk or root from which the religious institutions of every nation and people shot forth their luxuriant branches. The great symbol of the Deity, used both by the Patriarchs and their legitimate successors, the Jews, was the Cherubim of Glory, expressive of the wisdom and power of Jehovah; and this invested these pure systems of worship with a distinctive character of holiness and truth, which the Gentiles in vain strove to emulate, by an adoption of the constituent parts of the symbol, as real and acknowledged objects of genuine and rational devotion. In the present Lecture, I shall endeavour to illustrate this Cherubic Symbol, which, in all ages, has constituted one of the *secrets* of legitimate Masonry; and, if we find that it has been actually adopted into the mysterious institutions of every system of false religion known amongst men, this fact will be amply sufficient to warrant a conclusion, that they all emanated from the same source.

This sublime symbol was vouchsafed to man at the fall; and was placed over the East Gate of the garden of Eden upon an Ark, overshadowed by the divine glory or Shekinah. Here it remained, a permanent token of the divine presence, until the accumulated sins of men provoked the Almighty to withdraw his glory, and substitute a deluge of waters, which swept the apostate race from off the earth. It was renewed at the deliverance of God's chosen people from the tyranny of Egypt, and was again lost at the destruction of the temple by Nebuchadnezzar; but was revealed to Ezekiel, when the rebuilding of that celebrated edifice demanded a divine communication to impart the true form of the glorious Symbol, by which God had graciously manifested himself to his favourite people in ancient times, and which might probably have been lost, or inaccurately preserved during the calamities and privations attending a long and oppressive captivity in a foreign land.

This glorious appearance was exhibited to the prophet's enraptured view in a splendid and incomparable vision;

and is described by him¹ as consisting of an animal with the body of an Ox, invested with four distinct heads of a Lion, an Ox, an Eagle and a Man. The three first bore a striking resemblance to the Trinity, and the fourth head was that of a man, to denote that He, who, in his infinite mercy condescended to work out our salvation, should be clothed with humanity to accomplish the undertaking, and execute the great design as a created being. The whole compound figure was an apt symbol of all the Redeemed, thus placed under the visible protection of the Deity, manifested in the Shekinah, which extended its gracious influence over the Mercy Seat, on which the Cherubim were placed.

It was shadowed forth in the camp of the Israelites. The standard of Judah was emblazoned with the figure of a Lion, and hence the king of Judah was emblatically denominated a Lion;² that of Ephraim, with an Ox; that of Reuben with a Man; and that of Dan, with an Eagle.³ The Cabalists, to identify these banners with the Deity, used to inscribe each of them with a letter of the Tetragrammaton, or sacred name of God; and the banners of the whole twelve tribes, were made symbols of the circle of the Zodiac, and represented the twelve months of the year; the solstitial and equinoxial points being symbolized by the four great banners of Judah, Ephraim, Reuben, and Dan.⁴

It pointed out the nature of Angels. The representation of a Man, a Lion, an Ox, and an Eagle, referred to their understanding, their power, their patient ministration, their swiftness in executing the commands of the Most High.⁵ The Ox being the symbol of *Fire*; the Lion, of *Light*, from the rays which were supposed to dart from his eyes; and the Eagle, from his rapid excursions into that element, being the symbol of *Air*; the union of Fire, Light, and Air or Spirit, were not only

¹ Chap. i.

² Ezekiel xix. 3.

³ "Diodorus Siculus adduces a corresponding custom in Egypt; and among the Greeks, we observe that the shield of Agamemnon bore a LION'S HEAD, that of Alcibiades, a SERPENT, that of Cadmus, a DRAGON, and that of Ulysses, a DOLPHIN." Wait's Antiq. vol. i. p. 149. More anciently the distinguishing symbols were placed upon the helmet. Thus the Crest of Osiris was a hawk, of Horus, a Lion, &c.

⁴ Brown's Vulg. Err. b. v. c. 10.

⁵ Tremel. in Ezekiel i.

emblematical of the nature of ministering angels about the throne of God, but were the actual vehicles by which the Deity himself had condescended personally to communicate with man.⁶ Calmet thinks that "the figure of the Cherubim was not always uniform, since they are differently described in the shape of men, eagles, oxen, and lions, and in a composition of all these figures put together. Moses likewise calls those symbolical or hieroglyphical representations which were represented in embroideries upon the Veils of the Tabernacle, Cherubims of costly work. Such were the symbolical figures which the Egyptians placed at the gates of their temples, and the images of the generality of their gods, which were nothing commonly but Statues composed of men and animals."⁷

Do you enquire for what particular purpose the Cherubim were designed? On this mysterious subject I fear we must be contented to remain in ignorance. To attempt to elucidate their use or application among the Patriarchs and Idolaters, in the Tabernacle or in the Temple, would only involve the subject in additional difficulty and obscurity. An enlightened Jewish Rabbi (Bechai) has observed, that God was declared to have been seated *above* them, lest any person should imagine that such was the form of God himself, who alone is to be worshipped. He further avers that their wings were stretched upwards to show that they were only appointed to receive the divine influence coming on them from God above.⁸ It is, indeed, evident that they could not be the form of the Deity himself, because they are described⁹ as constantly employed in paying homage to Him that sat on the Throne; which is the unquestionable quality of an inferior being.

"The Ark of the Covenant," says Archbishop Tenison, "considered in all the appendages of it, God vouchsafed to the Jews in place of all the Statues or Creatures, or appearances of Dæmons, which their fancy was apt to adore, and in which Dæmons did already, or might afterwards counterfeit some shows of the glorious Shekinah

⁶ Heb. xii. 29.—Psalm xxvii. 1.—John viii. 12, and iv. 24, &c.

⁷ Calmet's Dict. in voc. Cherubim.

⁸ Wait's Antiq. vol. i. p. 166.

⁹ Rev. iv. 8.

of God. The whole of the Ark seems to some, the triumphant chariot of God moved by Angels, set forth by the form of beasts who drew the chariots of the eastern kings; whose pomp the poets exalted into heaven in the chariots of their gods. This of the true God is represented as moving by angels in the clouds, not as any fixed Throne in itself; the power and providence of God, whose chariot hath *wheels with eyes*, making all the world its circle; though often it took its way to the Tabernacle and Temple. Why Cherubims were added, the cause hath been often intimated already; to wit, by reason that the Logos appearing as God's Shekinah, was attended with angels and especially with Cherubim."¹⁰

To Adam and his posterity this symbol was familiar, for it was continually before their eyes. And though withdrawn at the flood, its application was not forgotten by the sons of Noah. Shem and a certain portion of his descendants transferred it, along with the Science which they alone preserved in its original purity. Ham and Japheth were also acquainted with this sublime emblem; and, in the mysteries established by them on the broad foundation of Masonry, and disseminated by their posterity, it was consequently adopted, but with an erroneous reference. The results were such as might be anticipated. When the true invisible God was renounced and forgotten, this symbol furnished mankind with plausible substitutes; and hence, in almost all the heathen nations of which we have any account, the Supreme Being was worshipped under the corporeal form of one or other of its component parts; and they all ultimately referred to the Sun, as the visible likeness of that divine Shekinah by which the Mercy Seat had been overshadowed; and hence this luminary, in connection with the Cherubic animals, became a chief object of Gentile worship throughout the world.

The Ox was adored in Egypt, India, and Britain; China and Japan; Persia, Greece, and Peru;¹¹ his head being considered the representation of the Solar Orb;

¹⁰ Tenison's *Idolatry*, p. 339, 340.

¹¹ Plin. *Nat. Hist.* l. viii. c. 46.—*Asiat. Research.* vol. i. p. 250.—Dav. *Druids.* p. 128.—Coupl. *pref. ad Tab. Chron.* p. 3.—Kämpf. *Hist. Jap.* p. 418.—Bryant's *Anal.* vol. ii. p. 425.—Nonni *Dion.* l. i.—*Purch. Pilgr.* b. ix. c. 10.

the eyes referring to the Fire, and the horns to those rays of Light and Glory which are usually portrayed as proceeding from a celestial object; for Fire and Light were esteemed the general appearances by which God had always chose to manifest himself to his creatures. Hence not only Osiris and Isis,¹² Ammon and Bacchus,¹³ not only Alexander and Attila,¹⁴ but even Moses himself, the prophet and messenger of the true God, is represented with horns or rays of glory encircling his head, as an unequivocal indication of his sacred and supernal character.

As the Ox was the predominating figure in the Cherubim, so it was the most universal symbol of idolatry, and was frequently worshipped in a compound form. It is probable that the fabled bulls with brazen feet, which breathed fire from their nostrils, and were the guardians of Jason's golden fleece,¹⁵ were taken from the bovine Cherubim. The Ox was an emblem of the great father or Noah; and the Ark was called *Ken-Tawros*, the stimulator of the Bull.¹⁶ He was worshipped with splendid Rites, at that season of the year particularly when the Sun was in Taurus.

In India, the Bull was held in high veneration, and honoured with diurnal worship in conjunction with the Linga or Phallus, as an united emblem of justice and prolific power. The Ammonitish idol Moloch was depicted with the head of a bull, as was also the Egyptian Apis; and the goddess Astarte, as well as Isis, was represented with the horns of the same animal.¹⁷ The Persian *Dive* or Evil genius Arzshenk, had a human body with the head of a Bull.¹⁸ A Bull was also the well known symbol of Bacchus, who is styled in the Orphic Hymns, "the deity with two horns, having the head of a Bull."¹⁹ The veneration for this animal was carried to such an extent, that in Egypt the blood of a Bull was considered an abomination; and the Indian idolaters of the present day have the greatest aversion, not unmixed

¹² Vid. Serv. En. 8.

¹³ Ov. Ep. Saph. Eurip. in Bacch.

¹⁴ Brown's Vulg. Err. b. v. c. 9.

¹⁶ Ovid. Met. l. vii.

¹⁵ Bryant. Anal. vol. ii. p. 440.

¹⁷ Sanch. in Euseb. præp. evan. l. i. c. 10.

¹⁸ Richardson's Dissert. on East. Nat. p. 171.

¹⁹ Hymn 29.

with horror, to the custom of using the flesh of an ox for food.

The Lion was adored in the east and the west, by the Egyptians and the Mexicans, as a most powerful divinity.²⁰ The chief Druid in Britain was styled a Lion;²¹ whence it was certain that this animal was an object of worship with our remote ancestors, because the High Priest had frequently assigned to him the title of the deity. The same animal was emblematical of the Sun in Tartary and Persia;²² the head, surrounded with a glittering mane, being the representative object of the divine light; and hence, on the national banner of Persia, a Lion was emblazoned with the Sun rising from his back.²³

In every country where the Lion was known, he would be esteemed the lord of the creation, if not superior to a created being. His eyes, which sparkle fire, his shaggy mane, which encircles the whole countenance, were likened to the splendid irradiations of the Deity; and his strength and firmness were symbolical of the oppressive power of the Sun in those torrid regions where he darts his rays of perpendicular heat, with resistless effulgence, on the heads of his devout worshippers. The Egyptian astronomers taught that the creation of the world took place at the precise period of time when the Sun rose in Leo; which sign was hence esteemed the peculiar habitation of the Sun; and this belief gave an additional stimulus to the veneration which mankind entertained for the king of animals.²⁴

²⁰ Diod. Sic. Bibl. l. i. c. 6.

²¹ Gododin. Song, 22.

²² Hesych.

²³ "The Sovereigns of Persia have for many centuries preserved, as the peculiar arms of their country, the sign or figure of Sol in the constellation Leo; and this device, which exhibits a Lion couchant and the Sun rising at his back, has not only been sculptured upon their palaces, and embroidered upon their banners, but has been converted into an order, which, in the form of gold and silver medals, has been given to those who have distinguished themselves against the enemies of their country." Sir John Malcolm's Hist. of Pers. c. xxv. These modern customs have emanated from the ancient superstitions of Persia, in which the Lion bore a prominent character.

²⁴ Mr. Bryant observes, in reference to this superstition: "as the chief increase of the Nile was when the Sun was passing through Leo, the Egyptians made the Lion a type of an inundation. All effusions of water were specified by this characteristic. And from hence has been the custom of making the water which proceeds from cisterns and reservoirs, as well as spouts from the roofs of buildings, come through the mouth of a Lion." Bryant's Plagues of Egypt, p. 86, note.

The EAGLE was sacred to the Sun in many countries, particularly in some parts of Egypt,²⁶ Greece,²⁷ and Persia.²⁸ In our scriptures the king of Babylon is termed an eagle.²⁹ It was reputed to have fed Jupiter with nectar in the Cretan cave, and was certainly an emblem of his dominion. With the British Druids it formed a symbol of their supreme god;³⁰ it was embroidered on the consecrated standard of the Mexican princes;³¹ and the common ensign of the Roman Legions was a golden eagle. Indeed, the peculiar property which this noble bird possesses, of beholding with impunity the undiminished vigour of the Sun's meridian rays, would naturally procure for it an emblematical distinction.

The MAN, or idol in human shape, was worshipped all over the world; for which custom this reason has been assigned by Porphyry, when charged with worshipping God under the figure of a man. He allowed the deity to be invisible, but thought him well represented in that form; not because he is like him in eternal shape, but because that which is divine is rational.³² But Tenison says: "this was not the common cause, but an inclination to a sensible object, and an apprehension of human figure as that which was most excellent, and which belongeth to a king and governor, under which notion, in the grosser idea of it, their reverence of earthly potentates had pictured God in their heads."³³

The confined limits of a single Lecture preclude a more extended disquisition on these particular heads. Enough, however, has been said to render the conjecture extremely probable, that the worship of these symbols by heathen nations, had been adopted from a tradition of the *divine presence* connected with the Cherubim, perverted from its original purpose; the *visible* image being substituted for the supreme but *invisible* God, represented in the Shekinah which overshadowed this glorious symbol. A probability which is increased by the consideration, that these animals were not only worshipped separately, but, in imitation of the prototype, they were

²⁶ Diod. Bibl. p. 78.

²⁸ Ovid. Metam. l. x.

²⁷ Montf. Ant. vol. ii. p. 368.

²⁹ Ezekiel xvii. 3.

³⁰ Dav. Druids, p. 119.

³¹ Purch. Pilgr. b. viii. c. 10.

³² Porph. in. Euseb. de præp. evan. l. iii. c. 7.

³³ Ten. Idol. p. 74.

adored in absolute union, Clement of Alexandria conjectures that the Egyptian Sphinx and other compound hieroglyphics were borrowed from them;³² and an extraordinary proof of this derivation is in that famous deity of Orpheus, which Damascius, quoted by Cudworth,³⁴ tells us was a winged Serpent, with the three heads of a Man, a Bull, and a Lion. This divinity could have no reference but to the Jewish Cherubim.

I am very much inclined to think that the Lion Avater of Hindostan, may also be referred to the same source. In this manifestation, a primeval Indian Monarch, named Hirinakassap, having violated the commands of God, and cast off his allegiance to that great Being, was destroyed by the divinity in the form of a compound animal, consisting of a Man with the head of a Lion, from whose mouth issued flames of devouring fire. The Cherubim which expelled Adam from Paradise assumed two forms, and wielded a sword of fire, says the sacred historian, which turned every way to keep the Tree of Life;³⁵ or, in other words, to prevent our apostate progenitor from attaining the privilege of immortality, which would have closed the avenues to the divine favour, and condemned him to exist for ever in a state of wickedness and sin. It is, in fact, probable, that every one of the Indian Avaters were derived from recollections of traditional accounts of this glorious symbol of the Deity. The tenth is most certainly a mythological representation of the second coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.³⁶

In the celebration of the mysteries, as we are told by Proclus, the candidates beheld many objects of MULTIFORM SHAPES, which prefigured *the first generation of the Gods*.³⁷ The Persian fire worshippers dedicated each month to a protecting angel, in whose honour certain ceremonies were instituted, all of which had a distinct connection with the Cherubim.³⁸ The bull-man of the Zend Avesta, was represented in the compound form of a man, a bull, and a horse. And the Persian Dive Munheras, in his first encounter with Sohrab the son of Rostam, is depicted with the head of a hog; and in the

³² Strom. l. v.³⁴ Intel. Syst. b. i. c. 4.³⁵ Gen. iii. 24.³⁶ Vid. Maur. Hist. Hind.—Asiat. Res. vol. i. p. 236.³⁷ Wait's Ant. vol. 1. p. 158.³⁸ In Plat. Thol. l. i. c. 3.

next as a *bifrons*, one side resembling the head of a lion, the other that of a wild boar.³⁹ Even the Israelites in the wilderness, not content with the pure and sober worship as instituted by God himself, sighed after the splendid superstitions of the neighbouring nations,⁴⁰ and it has been conjectured that they adored the Tabernacle as a *compound* form of the Deity; the tabernacle itself being worshipped as *Moloch*, the cherubim as *Apis*, and the Shekinah as *Remphan*.

In a word, all the multiform animals which we view in connection with idolatry, derive their origin from the same source. They were misrepresentations of the doctrines of the mysteries; in which, legends of these overshadowers of the Mercy Seat, were certainly retained. What were the Satyrs, the Centaurs, the Sphinges, the Chimærae, Garuda, and others? They have deformed every system of pagan theology, and certainly originated from the hallowed, yet misunderstood remembrance of these Hebraic Symbols.⁴¹

In all the ancient mysteries which attended the religious practice of every region in the idolatrous world, one principal *secret* consisted of dissertations on the form and worship of God, as the best incentive to the practice of moral virtue. In these Lectures the component parts of the cherubic symbol formed prominent subjects of disquisition; perverted, indeed, and gradually receding from the truth, as they were conveyed by uncertain tradition from the apostate sons of Noah down to the extirpation of idolatry. The practice was derived from a similar usage amongst the faithful worshippers of the true God, who transmitted the sublime science of Lux; and it has descended to our times pure and unadulterated. In the Lectures of Masonry this glorious emblem is copiously illustrated, and placed before the imagination, arrayed in awful splendours, and surrounded with unfading beauties, as the scriptural representation of the glory of that great Being,⁴² who is the universal Father of mankind, and into whose presence good Masons and virtuous men hope equally to be admitted, at the final consummation of all sublunary things.

³⁹ Richardson's Dissert. on East. Nat. p. 171.

⁴¹ Wait's Antiq. vol. i. p. 149.

⁴² Amos v. 25, 26.

⁴³ Ezekiel i. 28.

Confine your attention steadily to this symbol, which is the pride and ornament of Masonry, and you cannot surely deviate from the practice of pure morality. We are told that Moses made two Cherubim, and fixed them permanently to the Mercy Seat, which was the sacred cover or lid of the Ark of the Covenant;⁴³ and that Solomon constructed two larger ones, which stood upright in the Sanctum Sanctorum on each side of the Ark, and stretched their expanded wings over it, to improve the general appearance of the Most Holy Place, and render the hallowed repository of the Ark more beautiful and sublime.⁴⁴ Their wings formed a seat or throne over the Ark, in which God did not disdain perpetually to reside; and hence he is said to dwell between the Cherubim.⁴⁵ This magnificent idea is happily expressed by Sternhold, in his version of the eighteenth Psalm.

The Lord descended from above,
And bow'd the heavens high,
And underneath his feet he cast
The darkness of the sky.
On cherubs and on cherubim,
Full royally he rode,
And on the wings of mighty winds,
Came flying all abroad.

Every posture of the Cherubim has a moral reference which is exceedingly profitable and worthy of our serious consideration. They hid their faces with their wings to express an innate dread of the divine majesty of God. Their wings stretched out denoted a readiness to execute celestial commissions. They were "full of eyes," to denote God's all-seeing providence; the wheels intersecting each other at right angles,⁴⁶ expressed the revolutions of God's providence, regular and uniform, though apparently intricate and complicated. When they moved it was in a direct course, to represent their steadiness in performing the divine will. The spirit was in the wheels,⁴⁷ that they might be capable of yielding instant obedience. Their faces placed towards each other, were an emblem of unity and concord; and they overshadowed the Mercy Seat with their wings, a sign of the protection afforded

⁴³ Exod. xxv. 18-22.

⁴⁴ 1 Kings vi. 23-28.

⁴⁵ Psalm lxxx. 1. and xcix. 1.

⁴⁶ Ezekiel x. 11.

⁴⁷ Ezekiel i. 21, 22.

by the Deity to the invaluable contents of the Ark; the chief of which was the Sacred Law of God, written by inspiration, and deposited here as a place of perfect security, worthy of such a treasure. This treasure, we possess, with an inestimable addition, where those *truths* are plainly revealed, of which, even the Jews, favoured as they undoubtedly were in being the authorized keepers of the Oracles of God, had no absolute certainty;—*truths*, which point the way, not merely to peace and comfort in the present life, but to eternal happiness in the life to come. This perfect volume is not now hid in an Ark;—it lies open on our pedestal for every body to read; and is almost universally disseminated throughout the Christian world. A written revelation is a public blessing; because it excludes all doubts and fears about the terms of salvation; and is subject to none of the defects of oral tradition. Immured within the tyled recesses of the Lodge, we spread forth the leaves of this holy book with confidence and hope; and looking on each other as Brethren cemented by the most endearing ties, we consider *the open Lodge* as the abode of peace, and no unfit emblem, surrounded as we are by every incentive to virtue, of the celestial mansion of bliss.

We are told from very high authority, and I insist on it here, because it is peculiarly satisfactory to us as Christians to know and understand, that "it was the *Logos*, or Jesus Christ himself, whose glory shone on the Ark, as appears by the many places of scripture which speak no otherwise of the Ark than as of the type of *God incarnate*. Christ before his incarnation sitting on the Propitiatory as his Throne, with the Ark and Law at his feet; for that holy vessel is in scripture called his footstool,* seemeth to show himself beforehand in the Offices of King, and Prophet, and Priest. As King, whilst he sits on his Golden Throne, and exhibiteth the Law; as Prophet, whilst he answereth when consulted from between the Cherubim; and as Priest, establishing his seat as a Propitiatory or Mercy Seat."† This is the opinion of Archbishop Tenison, and it appears to receive the sanction of scripture; for the divine Shekinah vouch-

* Psalm xcix. 5. and cxxxii. 7.—Isaiah lx. 13.

† Ten. Idol. p. 342.

safed to the prophet Isaiah,⁵⁰ is declared by St. John to be the actual glory of Jesus Christ the Saviour of mankind.⁵¹ And we must consider further, that the *human* body of Jesus Christ is the Ark of the Christian Covenant; over which the Shekinah appeared in the cave at Bethlehem, in the form of a supernatural Star in the East, which hence is placed in the *centre* of our Lodges; again at his baptism by John the Baptist, as a celestial Dove surrounded by a shining cloud of glory; and again at his transfiguration and ascension, in the ancient form of a cloud; which at length received him; and, overshadowed by this Shekinah, he returned to his legitimate seat in heaven, there to remain as our intercessor till the day of judgment, when he shall again appear in a cloud to pass the final sentence on all mankind.

Such are the peaceful investigations of *Masonry*:—such are the objects which engage our attention in open Lodge. Let those who have no relish for these intellectual pursuits seek for pleasure and gratification amidst other scenes, where they fancy happiness may be found; we, meanwhile, will be satisfied with the enjoyments we possess; peace, harmony, and brotherly love, joined with the study and practice of moral virtue; and employ our leisure in humble attempts to illustrate the attributes and perfections of a Deity in whom we implicitly believe, and the nature and reality of those expressive symbols by which his glory has been manifested to his creatures. And we will prize our immaculate science, symbolized by the purity of our *clothing*, which leads to results that cannot fail to be highly beneficial to every true and faithful Brother, if received with fidelity, and practised uniformly and conscientiously in every circumstance and situation of life.

⁵⁰ Isaiah vi. 1, 2.

⁵¹ John xii. 41.

LECTURE V.

ON THE DELUGE.

"————— Far the rest above,
Of ghastly nature, and enormous size,
One form assaults my sight, and chills my blood,
And shakes my frame. *Of one departed world*
I see the mighty shadow: oozy wreath
And dismal sea-weed crown her: o'er her urn
Reclined, she weeps her desolated realms,
And bloated sons, and weeping, prophecies
Another dissolution, soon, in flames." Young.

WE have now arrived, by a systematic gradation, at that terrible event which almost annihilated the human race; and though the subject rather belongs to a collateral Degree than to genuine Masonry, yet, as the Ark of Noah, the Rainbow, and the Dove and Olive Branch have been introduced amongst our legitimate emblems, a Lecture on the subject may not be improperly introduced, as the Deluge forms a prominent feature in all the ancient mysteries; and a tradition of this signal judgment was universally prevalent in every region of the world.

In the concluding period of the antediluvian world, human wickedness, originating in the apostacy of Cain, had been increasing for many centuries. New modes of outrage were daily invented, which tended to alienate man still farther from original purity, until at length the world became universally corrupt, and the unlimited vengeance of God was poured out on the whole creation. This judgment had been denounced by a succession of holy men without producing the desired effect; and it has been observed, that in the age immediately preceding the Deluge, the wickedness and presumption of mankind exceeded the impiety and corruption of any succeeding age. Noah was deputed to give these sinners a final

warning, which, as usual, they rejected, and made the holy man a bye-word and a reproach. An Ark was therefore directed to be built, for the preservation of Noah and his house; but the workmen who constructed this stupendous vessel perished in the flood. "While Noah was employed about the building, the wicked rallied him, saying, to what purpose is a vessel made in the open plain at such a distance from the water? Others said to him, in the way of ridicule, which has passed into a proverb, you have made a ship, now therefore bring the water to it. Others again insulted him, telling him, that after having practised for a long time the trade of a husbandman, he was at last reduced to that of a carpenter. But his answer to them was, I shall have my turn, and you will learn at your expense, who it is that punishes the wicked in this world, and reserves chastisements for them hereafter in another."¹

The form of the Ark, like that of a Masons' Lodge, was an oblong square; so long, says Calmet, that few European Churches exceed it. In this Ark were saved Noah, his three sons and wives; in all *eight persons*. Some say that they embarked near the place where Babylon was afterwards built; others tell us that they embarked in the Indies; and during the time they continued in the Ark, they compassed the whole world."²

And now the fountains of the great deep were broken up and the rain descended in overwhelming torrents. The roaring of the elements, the gushing of the mighty waters, and the universal confusion of nature's works struck the inhabitants of the earth with compunction and horror. But it was too late. What was the pitiless situation of the mockers and unbelievers, when they saw the waters bursting with irresistible violence from the caverns of the earth, and from the fountains of the deep? What were their sensations when they beheld the inundating torrents of rain incessantly pouring from the heavens for the space of forty days and nights? With what dismay must they have been covered, if it be true, as is conjectured from the second chapter of Genesis and the fifth and sixth verses, that there was no rain before the flood, and that consequently this was the first instance

¹ Calmet, Hist. Dic. vol. i. p. 192.

² Calmet, vol. i. p. 192.

of the kind they had ever witnessed? An awful display of the tremendous wrath of God upon obdurate sinners! "How were they amazed at the strangeness of Noah's preservation, so far beyond all that they looked for. Repenting and groaning for anguish of spirit, they said within themselves, this was he whom we had sometime in derision, and a proverb of reproach. We, fools, accounted his life madness, and his end to be without honour. How is he numbered among the children of God, and his lot is among the saints!"³

It is quite unnecessary that I should enlarge on a subject so well known. Suffice it to say, that when the waters had subsided, the Ark rested on Ararat, a high three peaked mountain in Armenia, and Noah with his family descended into the open plain to supply the wants of nature, and to re-people the renovated world. The precise time of Noah's egress from the Ark has been a subject of controversy with the learned; but it appears now to be generally understood that this event happened early in the month of May, probably on May Day, because commemorative diluvian rites were annually celebrated on that day, by almost every ancient nation. That learned antiquary and mythologist, Mr. Faber, pronounces this to have been the day of Noah's deliverance. "May eve running into May day, was very generally adopted as the season of the Great Father's principal festival; and India, Babylonia, Britain, and Ireland have agreed in celebrating at that time the orgies of their chief divinity. *The reason of this choice I take to have been that Noah then quitted the Ark.*"⁴ And a great naturalist, Woodward, declares: "among all the remains of the antediluvian world, I have found such a uniformity and general consent, that I was able to discover at what time of the year it was that the Deluge began. The whole tenor of these bodies, thus preserved, clearly pointing forth the month of May."⁵ I shall not trouble you with an abstract of the different and contradictory theories, which philosophers have advanced, to account for the geological alterations which the earth sustained at that calamitous period, because the subject does not properly

³ Wisd. v. 3, 4, 5.

⁴ Fab. Pag. Idol. b. v. c. 6. s. 8.

⁵ Miln. Physico-Theological Lect. apud Hales' Chron. vol. i. p. 337.

come within my design; but I shall take the account of the Deluge precisely as it is related by Moses; and enquire in what manner it has been preserved or corrupted in the different mysteries of the idolatrous world.

In this enquiry, wheresoever we find a system of mysterious initiation, *there* we are sure to find also a tradition of the Deluge, often obscure, indeed, and not unfrequently fantastical, but possessing sufficient marks of a common original, to satisfy the most sceptical mind, that the Deluge of Noah, and no other event, is intended to be perpetuated amidst the adventitious embellishments which the genius or ignorance of a people may have thrown around it.

The events which attended this great convulsion of nature, were engrafted, by designing men, on the pure system which was practised by the pious patriarchs of the antediluvian world; and constituted the chief line of distinction between ancient Masonry and the surreptitious mysteries which were formed on its model, and enjoyed the triumph of superior veneration for many succeeding centuries. The former directed its undivided attention to the One invisible God, the Creator and Governor of the world, including the rites of worship offered to that omnipotent Being, according to principles instituted by himself; while the latter, at the greatest extent of its departure from the truth, acknowledged a multiplicity of deities, the chief of which were, indeed, capable of a resolution into the patriarch Noah,⁶ as an incarnation of the Divinity, and his three sons as a triplification of himself, who were, therefore, elevated into objects of divine worship, in contempt and consequent rejection of the true and only God. Hence, in most nations, the superior deities were represented as seated

⁶ Almost all the deities of heathen nations have been deduced by late mythologists to Noah or the Sun, and his symbolical consort the Ark or Moon, for "when colonies made any where a settlement, they engrafted their antecedent history upon the subsequent events of the place. And as in those days they could carry up the genealogy of their princes to the very source of all, it will be found, that, under whatever title he may come, the first king in every country was Noah. For as he was mentioned first in the genealogy of their princes, he was in after times looked upon as a real monarch; and represented as a great traveller, a mighty conqueror, and sovereign of the whole earth."—*Preface to Bryant's Analysis.*

on a lotos leaf, as upon a throne consecrated by its symbolical reference to the Ark, which bore them safely on the surface of the troubled waters, while the rest of mankind were involved in one common destruction. And the reasons which were deemed of sufficient weight to decree divine honours to Noah, were, at least, plausible and very attractive. God had always been represented as the Great Father of the human race. Noah was esteemed, and actually was, according to the flesh, the great father of mankind. God is said to have hovered over the face of the waters at the creation; and Noah actually floated on the face of the waters at the Deluge, which was universally accounted a new creation. The Lord Jehovah was to be the seed of woman and the produce of a pure virgin; and Noah, the universal father, was at once the seed of a woman, and born of the virgin Ark, without the intervention of any human creature. Hence Noah was elevated into an object of idolatrous worship, and became the chief deity of the Gentile world.

The mysteries were, most of them, conservators of this tradition; for their great founders, the Cabiri, could not carry their votaries beyond the period of the Deluge, without involving a question, which, in those early ages, would probably have been fatal to their own private views. And thus, though they actually taught the doctrine of an endless succession of worlds, of which the Phoenix was made a significant emblem, yet the Deluge was pronounced the creation of the present world, and as such it was described and perpetuated in the diluvian mysteries. And not only were the Deluge, the Ark, and the Ogdoad the main objects of these secret celebrations; but they also constituted the chief reference in all the *astronomical* as well as religious speculations of the whole heathen world. The learned and elaborate Bryant tells us, that "the Ark was looked on as a kind of Temple, a place of residence of the Deity, in the compass of Eight Persons." And again: "The Egyptians did, in reality, make the history of the Ogdoas, the chief subject of the *sphere*. They esteemed the Ark an emblem of the system of the heavens. And when

⁷ Anal. vol. ii. p. 233.

they began to distinguish the stars in the firmament, and to reduce them to particular constellations, there is reason to think, that most of the asterisms were formed with the like reference."^a Hence we find that as the lower apartments of the Tower of Babel were dedicated to the purpose of initiation into the mysteries, so the uppermost tier were appropriated solely to astronomical researches; for the first arrangement of the fixed stars into constellations was effected before the dispersion of our Brethren from the plains of Shinar; and Nimrod was placed in the heavens under the name of Orion.

The consequences of an open renunciation of the Deity, which was the probable cause of the general Deluge, were, however, concealed by the crafty founders of idolatry, under the same veil which obscured the Great First Cause; and every thing relating to that event, though transmitted with unequivocal exactness, was studiously enveloped in a web of mystery, calculated to lead the enquirer astray. Hence the jargon about Deucalion, the Atlantians, Typhon and Osiris, the Argonauts, and all the various fables with which different nations have been equally amused and misled. The truth was concealed with great art under imposing ceremonies and fearful denunciations. Solemn oaths were administered to restrain the enquiry within certain prescribed limits; and the dictatorial hierophant, invested with uncontrollable authority, could draw the line with his magic wand, and say, even to the initiated: "this is the boundary of your knowledge; thus far shall ye come, and no farther." And this accounts for the comparative ignorance of the adept himself; for the ineffable secrets were entrusted to none but kings and priests; and were conveyed almost solely by oral communication. Thus an extraordinary ceremony, referring to the Deluge, was used in the initiations, which shows how mysteriously that event was preserved and transmitted. The violent death of some unhappy individual was here celebrated, whose body they affected to have lost; and much time was expended and many ceremonies used in the search; even the aspirant himself was made figuratively to die and to descend into the infernal regions, for the purpose of ascer-

^a Anal. vol. ii. p. 244

taining the fate of him whose disappearance they ceased not to deplore. This part of the ceremony was performed in *darkness*; and was accompanied with loud and ceaseless wailings and lamentations. The body at length being found, the aspirant was passed through the regenerating medium, and thus was said to be raised from the dead and born again. This was the commencement of joy and gladness; and the initiated was invested with his symbols amidst universal rejoicing and acclamation.

Such is the pattern on which all the mysteries were formed; and it may be needless to repeat that the ceremony bears an evident reference, amongst other remarkable occurrences, to the descent of Noah into the darkness of the Ark, which was his emblematical Coffin,⁹ where he was figuratively said to have been in a state resembling death;¹⁰ and his egress thence considered as a new birth, and a restoration to the blessings of life and liberty. The door of the ark represented the medium of regeneration, and the passage of Noah through it into the renewed world, was imitated in the initiations by passing the candidate through certain ambrosiæ petrae or consecrated stones, which were supposed to convey a title to the favour of the gods, and an assurance of their continual protection.

I now proceed to notice a few traditions which have been preserved in the mysteries of different nations; and transmitted, in some instances, down to the present time. In the prosecution of this part of the subject, I shall not detain you by reciting the Egyptian legend of Osiris taking refuge in an Ark to escape the rage of Typhon (the sea), which overflowed his dominions; or the Greek fable of Deucalion; or the Chaldean account of the

⁹ Or Hell, according to the Scandinavian system; for "Helle signifies sepulchrum. It is derived from *Helan*, to cover or conceal, and, therefore, properly expresses *the Grave*, that common covering or concealment of mankind.—(*Farmer's Worship of Human Spirits*, p. 366, note a.) According to Faber (Pag. Idol. vol. i. p. 377), Hell was the invisible world of departed spirits, whether *good* or *bad*; and, in this sense, corresponded equally with the *Hela* of the Goths, and the *Elysium* of classical antiquity.

¹⁰ A passage of an ancient writer, preserved by Stobæus, contains the following remarkable words:—"The mind is affected in DEATH just as it is in the INITIATION into the mysteries. And word answers to word, as well as thing to thing; for *talavrat* is TO DIE; and *talavodai*, TO BE INITIATED." Warb. Div. Leg. b. ii. s. 4

preservation of Xisuthrus, which are too well known to need repetition. I shall rather choose to repeat a few of the most rare and curious traditions which we find recorded concerning this signal judgment.

The Brahmins of India preserved an account of the Deluge with some degree of accuracy; and united with it a description of the primitive peace and happiness of a former world. Men, say they, in the very first ages enjoyed full perfection, and conversed familiarly with the gods. Piety, truth, and every other virtue flourished amongst them uncontaminated by the malignant influence of an unholy passion. The ground produced its fruits spontaneously, and men were not constrained, by the wants of nature, to endure the pains and privations necessarily resulting from toil and labour. This state of universal repose at length produced discontent, which was soon followed by active rebellion, and the commission of every species of crime. Such a state of depravity elicited the summary vengeance of the offended gods. The ground was deprived of a large portion of its fecundity, and men were condemned to labour in order to supply their increasing necessities. The wickedness of mankind at length rendered their utter destruction inevitable. To purify the earth from the pollutions thus heaped upon it, the two regenerating elements, fire and water, were used. First a torrent of fire was sent upon the earth, which melted all mineral and vegetable matter, and consumed every thing in its progress. Then followed a deluge of water, which covered the whole face of the earth, that its pristine purity might be restored by a general ablution. During the prevalence of the waters, the god Vishnu, stretched at length, slept beneath the surface on the bosom of Devi, who, for that purpose, had assumed the shape of a monstrous serpent, *whose folds were coiled up in the form of a boat*. A lotos plant issued from his navel, and, ascending to the surface, spread its leaves and flowers on the expanse, and produced the god Brahma; who, seated in state upon its calix, claimed to be the first born of men and gods.¹¹ When the waters

¹¹ At the death of Brahma, says Moor (*Hind. Panth.* p. 103), the world is deluged with water, and Vishnu places himself on the lotos as a little child with the toe of his right foot in his mouth, as an emblem of

had subsided, the navicular Serpent Devi was grounded on Mount Meru; Vishnu was seen gloriously arrayed as *the Rainbow*; and Devi flew away in the form of a *Dove*.¹²

You will smile, when I relate the tradition, as it was preserved in China; but I have good authority to bear me out, and will, therefore, hazard the consequences of exciting your mirth. The inhabitants of the island Maurigasima, says the legend, becoming enriched by successful traffic, grew irreligious, neglected the rites of divine worship, and held the gods in sovereign contempt. These slighted beings, therefore, to revenge themselves on such an impious race, revealed to the king, who was a just and virtuous monarch, that whenever he should observe the faces of the two idols, which stood before the temple *to turn red*, he should immediately, with all his family and substance, escape from the island, to avoid the impending destruction of its inhabitants. This vision he made known to his subjects, that they might profit by the communication. But they ridiculed the good king; and a short time afterwards, one of them, in the delirium of unbelief, daubed the faces of these idols with red paint. The king, beholding the portent, lost no time in escaping from the devoted island with his family and friends, amidst the ridicule of all who were concerned in the imposition. No sooner, however, was he departed, than the island was swallowed up by the waters, and all the inhabitants were drowned. The king arrived safe in China, where his escape is still commemorated by an annual festival.¹³

In the remotest times, before the moon accompanied the earth, according to the mythology of the Muysca or Mozca Indians, the inhabitants of the plain of Bogota lived like barbarians, naked, without agriculture, without any form of laws or worship. Suddenly appeared among them an old man, who came from the plains situate on the east of the Cordillera of Chingasa, and who appeared to be of a race unlike that of the natives, having a long and bushy beard. He was known by three

eternity. When the deluge is about to subside, a lotos springs from his navel as before, from which Brahma is reborn.

¹² Vid. Maur. Ind. Antiq.—Moor's Hind. Panth.—Fab. Pag. Idol.—Wilf. on Mt. Cauc., &c.

¹³ Kämpfer's Japan, Append. p. 13.

distinct appellations, Bochica, Nemquetheba, and Zuhe. This old man instructed men how to clothe themselves, build huts, till the ground, and form themselves into communities. He brought with him a woman, to whom also tradition gives three names, Chia, Yubecayguaya, and Huythaca. This woman, extremely beautiful, and no less malignant, thwarted every enterprise of her husband for the happiness of mankind. By her skill in magic, she swelled the river of Funzha and inundated the valley of Bogota. The greater part of the inhabitants perished in this deluge; a few only found refuge on the summits of the neighbouring mountains. The old man, in anger, drove the beautiful Huythaca far from the earth, and she became the moon, which began, from that epocha, to enlighten our planet during the night. Bochica, moved with compassion for those who were dispersed over the mountains, broke, with his powerful arm, the rocks that enclosed the valley, on the side of Canoas and Tequendama. By this outlet he drained the waters of the lake of Bogota; he built towns, introduced the worship of the Sun, named two chiefs, between whom he divided the civil and ecclesiastical authority, and then withdrew himself, under the name of Idacanzas, into the holy valley of Iraca, near Tunja, where he lived in the exercise of the most austere penitence for the space of two thousand years.¹⁴

The Indians of Cholula have a similar tradition, but they extend it to the general dispersion of mankind. All those who did not perish in the inundation, say they, were transformed into fishes, save *seven*, who fled into caverns. When the waters subsided, one of these called Xelhua, surnamed the Architect, went to Cholollan, where, as a memorial of the mountain Tlaloc, which had served for an asylum to himself and his six brethren, he built an artificial hill in form of a *pyramid*. He ordered bricks to be made in the province of Tlamanalco, at the foot of the Sierra of Cocotl, and to convey them to Cholula, he placed a file of men, who passed them from hand to hand. The gods beheld with wrath this edifice, *the top of which was to reach the clouds*. Irritated at the daring attempt of Xelhua, they hurled fire on the pyramid. Num-

¹⁴ Humboldt's *Researches in America*, vol. i. p. 74.

bers of the workmen perished ; the work was discontinued, and the monument was afterwards dedicated to Quetzalcotl, the god of the air.¹⁵

The savages of South America believed that a priest, called Tezpi, was saved from a general inundation, by retiring with his wife and children into a box made of wood, in which he had also gathered together many animals, and excellent seeds of all sorts ; and that, after the retreat of the waters, he let fly a bird called Aura, which returned not back ; and successively several others, which also came not back ; but that the least of those birds, that which the Indians esteemed the most, soon appeared again, *with the branch of a tree in its mouth*.¹⁶ These accounts, preserved by men in almost a savage state, in a quarter of the globe unknown in ancient times, and certainly debarred by nature from any communication with the inhabitants of the eastern continent, approximate very nearly to those of Moses.

Enquire we now what was the belief of the British Druids in this particular ; for, on every subject, I studiously bring before your notice the creed and practice of our ancestors,¹⁷ because their opinions cannot fail to be peculiarly interesting.

In the mysteries of Britain a tradition of the Deluge was undoubtedly preserved, perverted indeed and localized like those of other nations, but bearing characteristic marks of the same event. In the time of the great god Hu, mankind were involved in an universal profligacy of manners. A communication was therefore made from heaven that the corruptions of the world should be purified by fire and water ; that the Lake Llion should burst, and, overflowing its banks, the torrent of water, with irresistible violence, should deluge the land and destroy all its inhabit-

¹⁵ Mexican MS. in the Vatican.—Humb. Resear. in America.

¹⁶ Howard's Thoughts on the Structure of the Globe, p. 120.

¹⁷ The ancient Scandinavians taught that the world was produced from the breath of the giant Ymer ; that a man and a woman proceeded from his side during his sleep ; that a deluge afterwards destroyed all mankind except one family, who succeeded in keeping a boat floating on the surface of the waters ; and that the world was repopled by the descendants of this family. The Deity was represented as being invisible, and residing in the lonely solitude of sequestered forests ; that he punished the sins of men by divers plagues ; but that his anger might be appeased by prayer and repentance.

ants. In consequence of this revelation, a vessel was constructed *without sails*, in which were preserved a male and female of every species of animals, and also a man and a woman named Dwivan and Dwyvach. When these were safely enclosed within the womb of the vessel, a pestilential wind arose, replete with poisonous ingredients, which spread devastation and death throughout the land. Then followed a fiery deluge, which melted the rocks and split the earth asunder. After this, the Lake Llion burst forth,¹⁸ inundated the earth, and destroyed the whole creation of men and animals, except the favoured few who had sought protection in the sacred vessel. And thus the world was purified by fire and water from the pollutions which the sins of men had accumulated upon it. When the destruction was complete, the Avanc or Beaver, a symbol of the floating Ark, was drawn to land by the oxen of Hu Gadarn; Gwidion (the British Mercury) formed the *Rainbow*, as a fair attendant on the Sun; and an assurance was given to the man and woman, by whom the world was to be repeopled, that the Lake should burst no more.¹⁹

In all these several legends, we have sufficient traits of similarity to enable us to detect their origin in the Deluge of Noah. The bursting of the Lake evidently refers to the true account contained in the seventh chapter of Genesis, where it is said that the fountains of the great deep were *broken up*. And this was a much more rational belief than was entertained by some other nations. In the Hindoo mythology, the disruption is referred to the act of quitting the Ark after the waters had subsided. The body of Sita, the wife of Maha Deva, is said to have burst, and the hero gods, or Noah and his sons, are violently thrown from her womb.²⁰ In the parallel superstition of Scandinavia, the giant Ymer is represented as slain, and the blood bursting from the wound formed a deluge, which drowned all the families of the giants, except one, who saved himself in his bark.²¹ And in Egypt the "bursting" was applied to an Egg, broken by Typhon during his contest with Osiris. But the bursting of a lake was the most prevalent belief.

¹⁸ Dav. Celt. Res. p. 157.

²⁰ Asiat. Research. vol. vi. p. 477.

¹⁹ Dav. Druids, p. 95.

²¹ Voluspa.

In tracing the mysterious institutions of different nations, we are surprised with a wonderful variety of fables, all bearing a reference to this same transaction. Thus, in one system the deity is said to have remained for a specific period in the belly of a fish; in another, to have sailed over the sea in a golden cup; in a third, to have been enthroned on the broad leaf of the lotos. Again, he was believed to have been saved from drowning, by a princess, who humanely used for that purpose a rope made of her own hair; and many other traditions of a similar nature were taught, equally alluding to the salvation of Noah.²² And, whether the deity were fabled to have been preserved from the effects of a general destruction in a vessel without sails, on the back of a crocodile, in a navel, in a cup, upon a mare, by a dove, or by a rainbow; whether he were said to be born from a cavern, a cloud, or a door; hewn out of a rock, produced from the side of a virgin without the co-operation of a father, from an egg, a cow, or the moon, the reference is undoubtedly the same. All these legends owe their origin to Noah and the Ark; for the foundation of every known system of idolatry was the worship of the Great Father and the Great Mother, symbolized by the sun and moon.²³

But the great father and mother were often confounded, and made to represent the same person; for the deity, in all the countries which practised an idolatrous worship, was considered as possessing both sexes in common.²⁴ This being the case, the worship of the great father was probably introduced with some reference to the first prophecy of the Messiah, for Noah was considered an incarnation of the divinity. And there is nothing very repugnant to principles of sound analogy in the ultimate reference to the Sun, Moon, and Planets, which soon became objects of divine worship. Every principle of false religion rested on some foundation of truth, either direct or implied; and the worship of the host of heaven might be derived from the highly figurative language by which the true

²² *Asiat. Research.* vol. vi. p. 479.—*Apollod. Bibl.* l. ii. c. 5.—*Jamb. de Myst.* s. 7.

²³ *Fragm. Stesich.* in *Fab. Cab.* c. vii.—*Asiat. Research.* vol. vi. p. 521.—*Hyg. Fab.* 62.—*Just. Mart. dial. cum Tryph.* p. 168, &c.

²⁴ *Cudw. Int. Syst.* l. i. c. 4.—*Ordin. of Menu.* Sir W. Jones's Works, vol. iii. p. 70.

God was usually described by the early patriarchs. Some remarkable specimens of this style are found in our sacred writings. Baalam describes him under the title of a STAR;²⁵ David calls him a SUN,²⁶ and so does Malachi.²⁷ If, then, Noah, or the Great Father, was worshipped as the Sun, his consort and the rest of the Ogdoad would be assimilated with the Seven Planets, of which the Moon was the chief.

Not a few of these nations unite in blending the Creation and Deluge so intimately, that the fable will aptly apply to either event; and it is probable that from this confusion has arisen the various applications which have been emblematically made to the mundane Egg,²⁸ which, as an universal symbol, is another great and unerring testimony to the fact of a common origination. The figurative meaning of this expressive emblem may be traced to the creation of the world; for the Spirit of God is truly represented at that period as hovering over the face of the waters, in the same manner as a bird broods or flutters over her eggs—an idea which is most beautifully expressed by Milton.

“ ————— THOU —————
 ————— with mighty wings outspread,
 Dove-like sat'st brooding o'er the vast abyss,
 And mad'st it pregnant.”²⁹

This truth was conveyed through the antediluvian world, and introduced by Noah and his family amongst the new race of men who peopled the earth after the flood, amongst whom the Egg soon became a significant and universal symbol. Thus in the Ordinances of Menu, the origin of all things is ascribed to an Egg. “He (the Creator) having willed to produce various beings from his own divine substance, first, with a thought created

²⁵ Numb. xxiv. 17.

²⁶ Psalm lxxxiv. 11.

²⁷ Mal. iv. 2.

²⁸ The egg which contains the rudiments of life, and was hence esteemed no unimportant symbol of the resurrection, was no other than the Ark, and the reference in the text corresponds exactly with the belief of all nations. Dionusus was fabled by the Greeks to be born from an egg, (*Orph. Hymn v.*) and he and Noah were the same person; therefore the birth of Dionusus, or Brahma, or any other hero god from an Egg, was nothing more than the egress of Noah from the Ark.—*Vid. Fab. Pag. Idol. b. i. c. 4.*

²⁹ *Paradise Lost*, b. i. l. 20.

the waters, and placed in them a productive seed ; *that seed became an Egg*, as bright as gold, blazing like the luminary with a thousand beams ; and in that Egg *he was born himself*, in the form of Brahma, the great forefather of all spirits."²⁰ In China it is believed that Puoncu, the first man, *was born out of an Egg*. The heavens were formed from the shell, the atmosphere from the white, and the earth from the yolk.

In the Orphic Mysteries, the doctrine was promulgated that the sun was produced from an Egg, which, floating on the ocean, was tossed about by the waves, until he burst forth in full splendour, endowed with power to triplicate himself by his own unassisted energies. Here is a direct reference to Noah and his three sons ; as well as to three appearances of the Sun ; in his rising, southing, and setting. In the Hymns attributed to Orpheus, at one time Venus, the universal parent of gods and men, is said to have been born from an Egg ;²¹ and at another Cupid is produced from the same Symbol.²² In both these instances, the Egg represents the Ark of Noah, which, while floating on the abyss, contained every living creature, and was in effect, *a world* in itself. And this reference was not attended with any violent or improbable stretch of conjecture, for it was a tenet even to the Jewish creed that the earth was founded on the floods,²³ and as it was known to the Gentile world that the Ark had floated on the waters of the Deluge, the Earth and the Ark were frequently mistaken for each other, and the Egg was a symbol common to both. To corroborate this explanation ; in one system, Cupid, thus said to be born of an Egg, is represented as seated on a *Rainbow* ; and in another, the *Dove*, the bird of Venus, is seated on an Egg.²⁴

Thus it appears that with the migrating descendants of Noah, the Egg had an undoubted reference to the Ark ; and in this acceptation it bore a prominent feature in all the diluvian mysteries ; for the Ark, when floating on the waters, was a world in miniature ; as it not only contained all living creatures, but was the sole visible substance remaining of the terrestrial creation. Hence,

²⁰ Sir W. Jones's Works, vol. iii. p. 66.

²¹ Hymn 5.

²² Psalm xxiv. 2.

²³ Hymn 2.

²⁴ Ampel. c. 2.

if Brahma, or Bacchus, or the corresponding god of any other nation was fabled to be born of an Egg, the symbol applied to the Ark of Noah. In truth, the Egg was the foundation of all the symbolical machinery of idolatry. The world was formed from an Egg; it was subsequently destroyed; and as destruction was considered but as a prelude to reproduction, the same symbol was again resorted to as an emblem of a new creation. For it was an universal belief, that at the conclusion of certain stated periods, the world was to be destroyed either by fire or water, or both; that the same progenitors appeared on the stage in each successive creation; and that the same race of men were re-born, and acted the same parts on the great theatre of the world, as they had before done in a former state.³⁵ And from this belief, doubtless, originated the doctrine of the Metempsychosis.

It remains that I elucidate the Symbols attached to this subject; which will bring the whole matter to a conclusion. These are the Ark and Anchor; the Dove and Olive Branch; and the Rainbow.

The Ark and Anchor are emblems of a well grounded hope and a well spent life. They are emblematical of that divine Ark which triumphantly bears us over this tempestuous sea of troubles; and that Anchor which shall safely moor us in a peaceful harbour, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.³⁶

The Dove with an Olive Branch in its mouth is an emblem of peace, and, in connection with the Rainbow, points out to desponding mortals that divine justice is satisfied, and mercy extends her golden sceptre to a guilty world. The Dove, when liberated by Noah, brought back in its mouth, say the Jewish Rabbins, a Branch of Olive plucked from the Groves of Eden, near which the Ark, most probably, rested. Thus the Dove and Olive Branch became a permanent symbol of peace; and implied the removal of a calamity and the substitution of a benefit. In remembrance of this wonderful escape, the token of union on the plains of Shinar was a broad Banner, on which a Dove, bearing the Branch of Olive in its mouth, encircled by a Rainbow, were curiously embroidered. Dr. Owen, in his natural history of Ser-

³⁵ Desatir. Book of Abel.

³⁶ Star in the East, p. 64.

pents,³⁷ says that "Semiramis, being conquered by Stau-robates, antiquity feigned she was changed by the gods into a Dove, the bird of Venus, which is the reason why the Dove was worshipped by the Babylonians, and *why they gave it in their Ensign.*" This is erroneous, for the banner doubtless proceeded from a recollection of the benefits derived from Noah's Dove; and it was actually used by Semiramis herself before and during her unfortunate expedition into India; for the Dove was the favourite bird of this empress, and hence she was figuratively said to have been nourished in her infancy by doves in the wilderness.³⁸

This bird being universally held in high veneration, was said to have conveyed the Mysteries to many different nations. From the information which it gave to Noah while he was confined within the gloomy recesses of the ark, it was accounted an interpreter of the Divine will; and hence the priests and prophets of idolatry were frequently styled doves.

The Rainbow was an emblem common to every species of religious mystery; and was probably derived from an old arkite tradition, that the Divinity was clothed in a Rainbow. For thus is he represented by Ezekiel the prophet: "As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord."³⁹ St. John saw in a vision the throne of God, encompassed by a rainbow.⁴⁰ A Rainbow was, in fact, the usual emblem of a divine Saviour throughout the world. Some Christians, "from the irradiation of the sun upon a cloud, apprehend the mystery of the Sun of Righteousness in the obscurity of flesh;—by the colours *green* and *red*, the two destructions of the world by *water* and *fire*; or by the colour of blood and water, the mysteries of baptism, and the holy eucharist."⁴¹

In India the Rainbow was an emblem of peace, and in the Third Avater of Vishnu, it is represented as issuing from the troubled waters of the Deluge. It was esteemed the principal instrument used to compose the

³⁷ P. 3. c. vi.
³⁸ Rev. iv. 3.

³⁹ Diod. Sic. Bibl. l. ii. c. 1.

⁴⁰ Ezekiel i. 28.

⁴¹ Brown's Vul. Err. b. vii. c. 4.

agitation of the elements, which produced and attended that awful event. In the British mysteries it was an emblem of protection; figuratively said to surround the aspirant, when delivered from his confinement in the Pastos or Ark; and hence he was called the offspring of the Rainbow. The Bards frequently introduced this symbol, which is compared to "a stream of light, which scares away violence from the earth, and causes the bane of its former state round the circle of the world to subside."²

I shall conclude with a few practical comments on the awful event which has formed the subject of this Lecture. And do not imagine that I am deviating from the pure principles of our Order, when I endeavour to apply the truths inculcated by Freemasonry to a higher object than present felicity; for the connection between Masonry and Religion is absolute, and cannot be destroyed. Masonry contributes to produce the social happiness of mankind in this world by the practice of moral virtue. Religion gives us happiness in a future state, emanating partly from the same cause, but rendered perfect by the atonement of Christ. Hence Masonry must be considered as the handmaid of Religion, because the practice of moral virtue, though it cannot absolutely save, is an essential condition of salvation. With this illustration in view, I shall endeavour to incite you to *Christian* morality, that the peace you derive from your masonic pursuits may be contemplated by the practice of religion, and produce its final and lasting reward at the resurrection of the dead.

You have seen how the whole world was destroyed, and the race of men almost exterminated, for a rejection of the very morality which Masonry recommends. Divine Revelation informs you that it shall undergo a second destruction for the same cause; when a different agent shall be employed to consume and burn up this earth with all that it contains. Do not, then, like the profane antediluvians, scoff at the terms of salvation, and say, the threatened punishment will never be inflicted. Do not, like them, say, we will eat, drink, and be merry, and all will yet be well; for you may be assured that nothing

² Chair of Ceridwen.

but practical righteousness, founded on faith in the atoning Mediator, can bear you up in that day when the ripened iniquities of men shall bring on the long-suspended deluge of fire, which shall drown the wicked in everlasting destruction. The Ark, in which you and all mankind must be saved from this fiery purgation, is inscribed with three important words, **REPENTANCE**, **FAITH**, and **OBEDIENCE**, which, like a brilliant Rainbow, surround and overshadow the vehicle of your preservation; and, with an efficacy more significant than the Dove and Olive Branch, proclaim your everlasting peace.

LECTURE VI.

ON THE MYSTERIOUS DARKNESS OF THE THIRD DEGREE.

"The pale beam struggled through the shade
That black'd the cavern's womb;
And in the deepest nook betray'd,
An altar and a tomb.
Around the tomb in mystic lore,
Were forms of various mien;
And efts, and foul-wing'd serpents, bore
The altar's base obscene."

Mickle.

By the dispensations of an All-wise Providence, it is ordained that a state of Darkness, resembling death, shall precede the attainment of all the different degrees of perfection. Thus the dense vacuum of chaos introduced the formation of the world as it came from the hand of its Maker pure and perfect. Thus the whole creation annually sinks into itself; the trees are stripped of their leafy covering, the waters are locked up in the frosts of winter, and nature seems consigned to the embraces of darkness and death. But this dreary pause is only a fit preparation for the revival of the new year, when the earth again displays her charms, and cheers us with all the animation and glory of a revived existence. Thus also man, the nobler work of the Deity, is subject every day to an oblivion of sense and reflection, which, however, serves but to invigorate his faculties, and restore to reason all its energy and force. And thus, even death itself, though terrible in prospect, is but the prelude to our restoration in a more improved state, when eternity shall burst upon us in full effulgence, and all the glories of absolute perfection encircle us for ever.

In like manner the emblematical darkness of Masonry

is but the precursor of superior illumination ; and hence our science is aptly denominated *Lux* or *Light*, because it removes the mists of error and prejudice from the understanding, and leaves the soul open to impressions which awaken all the energies of Faith, and Hope, and Charity. This *Light* is partly communicated by the assistance of hieroglyphical emblems ; for *Masonry*, correctly defined, is “ a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.” Thus, if we wish to recommend justice and morality, we point to the *Square*, which is the emblem of these virtues ; if equality be our theme, the *Level* is displayed ; if integrity, the *Plumb*. Do we wish to illustrate our respective duties to God and man, the *Three Great Lights* are on the Pedestal, and are easily brought before the active Mason’s view ; and the *Three Lesser Lights* point out the excellent scheme of government adopted by our ancient Brethren, and still practised in our Lodges. Do we enlarge upon a life well spent in acts of piety and devotion, the *Perfect Ashler* is the elucidating emblem ; if we refer to the comfort and perfection of God’s revealed word, it is done through the medium of the *Tracing Board* ; if the pure and perfect road to Heaven be the subject of our Lecture, we have a *Ladder* composed of staves or rounds innumerable, each pointing out some moral or theological virtue ; and even when elevating our thoughts to the Deity himself, our eyes involuntarily rest on the *Glory in the centre* ; then, with hearts overflowing with gratitude and love, we bow reverentially before the All-Seeing-Eye of God, which the sun, moon, and stars obey ; conscious that it pervades their inmost recesses, and tries our thoughts, words, and actions by the unerring touchstone of truth and eternal justice.

In the ancient mysteries, the *Epopetes*, or perfectly initiated aspirants, were reputed to have attained a state of pure and ineffable *Light*, and pronounced safe under the protection of the celestial gods ;¹ while the unhappy multitude, who had not undergone the purifying ceremonies, were declared reprobate ; said to wander in all the obscurity of *Darkness*, to be deprived of the divine favour, and doomed to a perpetual residence

¹ Diod. Sic. Bibl. l. v. c. 3.

in the infernal regions, amidst a cheerless and overwhelming contamination.²

During the Persian initiations, this doctrine was enforced *ex cathedra*. The Archimagus informed the candidate, at the moment of illumination, that the *Divine Lights*³ were displayed before him; and after explaining the nature and purport of the mysteries in general, he taught that the universe was governed by a good and evil power, who were perpetually engaged in contest with each other, and, as each in turn prevailed, the world was characterized by a corresponding succession of happiness and misery; that uninitiated and immoral men were votaries of the evil power, and the virtuous initiated of the good; and at the end of the world, each, with his followers, will go into a separate abode; the latter with *Yazdan* shall ascend *by means of a Ladder* to a state of eternal LIGHT, where exists unalloyed happiness and the purest pleasures; the former with *Ahriman* shall be plunged into an abode of DARKNESS, where they shall suffer an eternity of disquietude and misery, in a desolate place of punishment situated on the shore of a stinking river, the waters of which are black as pitch and cold as ice. Here the souls of the uninitiated eternally float. Dark columns of smoke ascend from this stream, the inside of which is full of serpents, scorpions, and venomous reptiles.⁴

The multitude, being thus amused with fables, and terrified with denunciations, were effectually involved in uncertainty, and directed to paths where error only could be found; for every proceeding was mysterious, and every mythological doctrine shrouded under a corresponding symbol. These allegorical fables becoming popular, the simple rites of primitive worship soon assumed a new and more imposing form; and religion was at length enveloped in a veil, so thick and impervious as to render the interpretation of their symbolical imagery extremely difficult and uncertain. The slender thread of truth being intimately blended and confused with an

² Plato Phædone.—Arist. Eleusinia, et apud Stobæum. Serm. 119, &c.—Schol. Arist. Raris.—Diog. Laert. in vita Cog. Cynici. apud Warb. Div. Leg. b. ii. s. 4.

³ Psell. in Schol. in Orac. Zoroast.

⁴ Hyde. de relig. vet Pers. p. 299.

incongruous mass of error, the elucidation was a task so complicated and forbidding, that few had the courage to undertake it; and men were rather inclined to bow implicitly to popular tradition, than be at the pains to reconcile truth with itself, and separate, with a nice and delicate hand, the particles of genuine knowledge from the cumbrous web of allegory and superstition in which they were interwoven.

The Darkness of Masonry is invested with a more pure and dignified reference, because it is attached to a system of truth. It places before the mind a series of the most awful and impressive images. It points to the darkness of death and the obscurity of the grave,⁵ as the forerunners of a more brilliant and never-fading Light which follows at the resurrection of the just. Figure to yourselves the beauty and strict propriety of this reference, ye who have been raised to the Third Degree of Masonry. Was your mind enveloped in the shades of that darkness? So shall you again be involved in the darkness of the grave, when death has drawn his sable curtain round you. Did you rise to a splendid scene of intellectual brightness? So, if you are obedient to the precepts of Masonry and the dictates of Religion, shall you rejoice, on the resurrection morn, when the clouds of error and imperfection are separated from your mind, and you behold, with unveiled eye, the glories which issue from the expanse of heaven—the everlasting splendours of the throne of God!

It is an extraordinary fact, that there is scarcely a single ceremony in Freemasonry, but we find its corresponding rite in one or other of the idolatrous mysteries; and the coincidence can only be accounted for by supposing that these mysteries were derived from Masonry. Yet, however they might assimilate in ceremonial observances, an essential difference existed in the fundamental principles of the respective institutions. The primitive veneration for *Light* accompanied the career of Masonry from the creation to the present day, and will attend its course until time expires in eternity; but, in the mysteries of idolatry, this veneration soon yielded its empire over men's minds, and fell before the claims of Darkness;

⁵ Job. x. 21, 22.

for, a false worship would naturally be productive of impure feelings and vicious propensities. It is true, indeed, that the first Egyptians worshipped On as the chief deity, who was supposed to be the eternal *Light*; and hence he was referred to the Sun as its great source and emanation. Thus it was said that *God* dwelt in the *Light*, his *Virtue* in the Sun, and his *Wisdom* in the Moon. But this worship was soon debased by superstitious practices. The idolaters degenerated into an adoration of serpents and scorpions, and other representatives of the evil spirit; and, amidst the same *professions* of a profound reverence for *Light*, became most unaccountably enamoured of *Darkness*; and a Temple near Memphis was dedicated to *Hecate Scotia*,⁶ which was styled the Lord of the Creation, and in some respects deemed oracular. Hence we deduce the strict propriety of the ninth plague inflicted by Almighty vengeance on that infatuated people; in which it is most remarkable to observe that the same terrific sights were exhibited before their affrighted senses, the same unearthly noises sounded in their ears, as usually attended the rites of initiation into the Egyptian Mysteries.⁷

With the same reference in view, the Almighty, many centuries afterwards, denounces his vengeance on Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

"I will cover the heavens when I quench thee,
And I will clothe the stars thereof with black;
I will cover the sun with a cloud,
And the moon shall not give her light.
All the shining lights of the heavens will I clothe
with black over thee,
And will set DARKNESS upon thy land,
Saith the Lord Jehovah."⁸

This superstition, which assigned divine honours to *Darkness*, was not peculiar to Egypt, but spread, by a kind of fatality, throughout the idolatrous world; and was justified on the principle that *Darkness* or *Night*, which had an existence in *Chaos* long before the creation of *Light*, was hence of superior antiquity.⁹ Thus in their calculations they gave precedence to the *Night*;

⁶ Diod. Sic. l. i. c. 7.

⁷ Vid. Book of Wisdom, c. xvii.

⁸ Ezekiel xxxii. 7, 8. Bp. Lowth's Translation.

⁹ Plat. Sym. l. iv.

and to signify one full revolution of the earth on its axis, they used the phrase, *a night and a day*, which the Greeks expressed by the word *Nuchthemeron*. Even the Jews began their calculations from the evening, because God is said by Moses to have created Light out of Darkness.¹⁰ And they beheld the Darkness itself with the most awful sensations, and considered it as the incomprehensible veil of the Deity.¹¹ They thought the greatest mystery of religion was expressed by adumbration, viz., the Cherubim *shadowing* the Mercy Seat. Life was considered but the shadow of death; and souls departed but the shadow of the living; the sun itself but the dark simulachrum; and Light but the shadow of God.¹²

The honours thus conferred on Darkness, are plainly set forth in the Orphic Fragments, where Night is celebrated as the parent of gods and men, and the origin of all things.¹³ And hence in the initiations, Darkness was always hailed with *three distinct acclamations or cheers*, (*τρεῖς καὶ τούτο ἐπισημαίνοντες*).¹⁴ For these united causes, Jesus Christ says, that in his time, at the extreme point of degeneracy which mankind were suffered to attain, "*men loved Darkness rather than Light*, because their deeds were evil."¹⁵ And, speaking of the implacable and revengeful spirit inculcated by idolatry, St. John, the beloved disciple of Christ, says: "he that hateth his brother, is in Darkness, and walketh in Darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that Darkness hath blinded his eyes."¹⁶ The same reference is abundant in all St. Paul's Epistles which are addressed to the heathen converts.

From these observations, the customs that follow may be satisfactorily accounted for.

In all the ancient mysteries, before an aspirant could claim to participate in the higher secrets of the institution, he was placed within the *Pastor*, or *Bed*, or *Coffin*; or, in other words, was subjected to a solitary confinement for a prescribed period of time, that he might reflect seriously,

¹⁰ Genesis i. 2, 3.

¹¹ Vid. 1 Kings viii. 12.—2 Chron. vi. 1.—Psalm. xviii. 9, &c.

¹² Brown's Gard. of Cyrus, c. iv.

¹³ Euseb. de præp. evan. l. iii. c. 9.

¹⁴ Damascius, in Bryant's Plagues of Egypt, p. 170.

¹⁵ John iii. 19.

¹⁶ Ephesians ii. 11.

in seclusion and *darkness*, on what he was about to undertake; and be reduced to a proper state of mind, for the reception of great and important truths, by a course of fasting and mortification. *This was the symbolical death of the mysteries*, and his deliverance from confinement was the act of regeneration or being born again; or, as it was also termed, *being raised from the dead*.¹⁷ "Clement of Alexandria tells us that, in the formulary used by one who had been initiated, he was taught to say, I have descended into the bed chamber. The ceremony here alluded to was, doubtless, the same as the descent into Hades; and I am inclined to think, that when the aspirant entered into the mystic cell, *he was directed to lay himself down upon the bed, which shadowed out the tomb or coffin of the Great Father*. This process was equivalent to his entering into the infernal ship; and while stretched upon the holy couch, *in imitation of his figurative deceased prototype*, he was said to be wrapped in the deep sleep of death. *His resurrection from the bed was his restoration to life*, or his regeneration into a new world; and it was virtually the same as his return from Hades, or his emerging from the gloomy cavern, or his liberation from the womb of the ship-goddess."¹⁸

The candidate was made to undergo these changes in scenic representation; and was placed under the Pastos in perfect Darkness, generally for the space of three days and nights. The time of this solitary confinement, however, varied in different nations. In Britain *nine* days and nights was the specified period;¹⁹ in Greece three times nine days;²⁰ while in Persia it extended to *fifty* days and nights of darkness, want of rest, and fasting!²¹ To explain the nature of these places of penance and mortification, I need not carry you to distant shores; the remains in our country are both numerous and open to public inspection; for I have no doubt but the British Cromlech was the identical vehicle of preparation for the druidical mysteries.

A celebrated piece of antiquity was recently standing near Maidstone, called Kit's Cotti House. This was a

¹⁷ Vid. Bryant's Anal. vol. ii. p. 257. ¹⁸ Fab. Pag. Idol. b. v. c. 7.

¹⁹ W. Arch. Tri. 50 apud Dav. Druids, p. 404.

²⁰ Porph. vit. Pyth.

²¹ Porph. de abstin. c. vi. a. 18.

dark chamber of probation; for Kit is no other than Ked, or Ceridwen, the British Ceres; and Cotti or Cetti meant an Ark or Chest; hence the compound word referred to the Ark of the diluvian god Noah, whose mysterious Rites were celebrated in Britain; and Ceridwen was either the consort of Noah, or the Ark itself; symbolically the great mother of mankind. The peculiar names which these monuments still retain throughout the kingdom, are a decisive proof that they were appropriated, almost exclusively, to this purpose. Had they been commonly used for *Altars*, some marks of the operation of fire would still have been visible on their upper surface, which is not the case. Were they merely sepulchral monuments, the remains of interred bodies would be discovered under all of them without exception; and such interments have been very rarely found.

To establish this point more satisfactorily, I will enumerate a few of them. At a village in Somersetshire called Stanton Drew, or *Druid Stones*, we find a specimen of this structure, which consisted originally of three circles of stones and a Pastos or adytum. Another in Cardiganshire, called Llech y Gowres, *the flat Stone of the Giantess* (Ceridwen). At the village of Shap in Westmoreland, is another termed Carl Loft, a name also applicable to the Pastos. The Phallus was the gross symbol under which Noah, or the Great Father of the mysteries, was worshipped; and it was usually represented by a pyramidal stone. Now in some of the most ancient dialects of Britain, *Kal* signified the Phallus, and *Llyv*, the Deluge; and hence, according to this etymology, *Kal-Llyv*, modernized into Carl-Loft, simply meant, the Phallus, or memorial of the Deluge. The list might be increased almost indefinitely.

Coincidences like these are too striking to be overlooked; particularly when we consider that the initiations formed a most important and essential part of religious worship; and no person could hold any dignified appointment as a priest, or legislator, without passing through these forms, which included, as an indispensable preliminary rite, *the solitary confinement of the darkened Pastos*. Warburton says that the Pagans appear to have thought initiation as necessary as the Christians did baptism.²²

²² Div. Leg. b. ii. c. 4.

The initiations were, therefore, very numerous, and the places where they were performed not only abounded in every part of the island, but were invested with a high degree of imaginary sanctity; particularly the adytum, which was represented as being the peculiar abode of spirits and guarded by a vindictive divinity, armed with the sword of justice. A devotional feeling for these consecrated places would descend from father to son, for many generations after the knowledge of their particular use (which was known only to the initiated) had been lost, or obscured by time, or the prevalence of the Christian Religion, whose complete success was involved in consigning to oblivion every vestige of these ceremonial rites, which might tend to keep alive in the mind the object of every mystical celebration. Hence, from the inhumation of the aspirant, which was esteemed equivalent with an actual interment, the Cromlech was said to be sepulchral; but this conjecture, after many revolving ages, having fallen into disrepute, from the ill success of antiquarian research, which was almost universally disappointed in its attempts to discover the crumbling remains of decayed bodies within the area of its inclosure, it was then assumed that these monuments must necessarily have been altars for sacrifice; for the notion of their being sanctified appendages to Religion was never lost; and it was not supposed that they could be applied to any other purpose in the rites of divine worship.*

The emblems here offered to your notice are the Coffin with the Skull and Cross Bones, the Hour Glass, the Scythe, the Beehive, and the Sprig of Acacia. *The Coffin, Skull, and Cross Bones*, are emblems of mortality, and cry out with a voice almost more than mortal, *prepare to meet thy God*. "The *Hour-glass* is an emblem of human life. We cannot, without astonishment, behold the little particles which are contained in this machine, pass away almost imperceptibly, and yet, to our surprise, in the short space of an hour all are exhausted. Thus wastes human life. At the end of man's short hour, death strikes the blow, and hurries him off the stage to his long and darksome resting place."

* Vid. Dav. Druids, p. 391—410.

* Star in the East, p. 64.

"The *Scythe* is an emblem of time, which cuts the brittle thread of life, and launches us into eternity. What havoc does the Scythe of Time make among the human race! If by chance we escape the numerous evils incident to childhood and youth, and arrive in perfect health and strength at the years of vigorous manhood; yet, decrepit old age will soon follow, and we must be cut down by the all-devouring scythe of time, and be gathered into the land where our fathers are gone before us."²²

The *Beehive* is an emblem of industry, and recommends the practice of that virtue to all created beings, from the highest seraph in heaven to the lowest reptile in the dust. It teaches us that, as we came into the world rational and intelligent beings, so we should ever be industrious ones, never sitting down contented while our fellow-creatures around us are in want, when it is in our power to relieve them, without inconvenience to ourselves.

This was a famous symbol in the Orphic mysteries, into which it had been introduced with a mysterious reference well worthy of our consideration. "We learn from one of the ancient Oracles collected by Opsopeus, that *Honey* was used in the sacrifices to Bacchus and the Nymphs; and Sophocles informs us, that libations of honey and water were made in honour of the Erinnyes, which tremendous deities were in reality arkite deities. According to Porphyry, *honey was introduced into the mysteries as a symbol of death*, on which account it was offered to the infernal gods. This notion will show us the reason why the Chaldeans, who were deeply versed in the Cabiric orgies, were accustomed to embalm their dead with honey. *The death, however, celebrated in the mysteries, of which honey was the symbol, was not, I apprehend, a literal, but merely an allegorical death; the death, in short, of Bacchus, Adonis, and Osiris; or, in other words, the confinement of Noah within his Ark or Coffin; such a death as this, therefore, was very naturally described as being sweet, for it was, in fact, a preservation from danger.*" In allusion to the symbolical honey,

²² Star in the East, p. 65.

²³ Honey was universally used as a symbol of death. The ancients made libations to the dead, of honey, wine, and blood. Funeral cakes

Samothrace, the grand seat of the Cabiric superstition, was once denominated Melita; and, for precisely the same reason, Jupiter was sometimes feigned to have been fed, during his infancy, by a *swarm of bees*. These bees, as we learn from Porphyry, were nothing more than the mystic priestesses of the infernal Ceres, who were called Melissæ, or Melittæ, a name which, according to a custom familiar to the Pagans, they seem to have assumed from the deity whom they served. Ceres, Venus, or Astarté, was styled by the Babylonians, Mylitta, or the goddess of generation; and, as the Cabiric priests assumed the title of Cabiri, Curetes, or Corybantes, so the priestesses of Mylitta called themselves Melissæ or Melittæ. The name was afterwards extended to Bees, which animals, from their great vigour, activity, and liveliness, were thought to be proper emblems of what the Eoptæ termed, *new born souls*. Porphyry concludes his remarks upon the Bees of the mysteries, by observing that the Eoptæ did not consider them emblematical of all souls in general, but only of the just. The reason why this distinction was made is evident; the bees symbolized only *the just man and his pious family*, not the incorrigible race which perished beneath the waves of the deluge."²

The *Sprig of Acacia* points to that state of moral obscurity to which the world was reduced previously to the appearance of Christ upon the earth; when the reverence and adoration due to the Divinity was buried in the filth and rubbish of the world; when religion sat mourning in Israel in sackcloth and ashes, and morality was scattered to the four winds of heaven. In order that mankind might be preserved from this deplorable state of darkness and destruction, and as the old law was dead and become rottenness, a new doctrine and new precepts were wanting, to give the key to salvation, in the language of which we might touch the ear of an offended Deity, and bring forth hope for eternity. True religion was fled; those who sought her through the

were placed, by the Greeks, in the mouth of deceased persons, to appease the wrath of Cerberus. Thus Virgil: *Melle sopocatam et medicatis frugibus offam*. *Ποναρά*, or round, broad, and thin salt cakes, with honey, made a part of the funeral offerings to Hecate or the Moon.

² Feb. Mys. Cab. c. x. with authorities.

wisdom of the ancients, were not able to raise her; she eluded the grasp, and their polluted hands were stretched forth in vain for her restoration. Those who sought her by the old law were frustrated; for death had stepped between, and corruption had defiled the embrace; sin had beset her steps, and the vices of the world had overwhelmed her. The Great Father of all, commiserating the miseries of the world, sent his only Son, who was innocence (*acacia*) itself, to teach the doctrines of salvation; by whom man was raised from the death of sin unto a life of righteousness—from the tomb of corruption unto the chambers of hope—from the darkness of despair to the celestial beams of faith; and not only working for us this redemption, but making with us the covenant of regeneration, whence we become the children of God, and inheritors of the realms of heaven.*

I cannot conclude this Lecture without adding a few words, by way of application, on the Darkness of Death, which will as certainly precede your resurrection, as it did figuratively, when your Masonry was completed. Are you rich, and blessed with an abundant superfluity of earthly possessions? To you the approach of death will be bitter indeed, if it find you unprepared, because it will deprive you of all your temporal comforts, without the promise of an equivalent in eternity. Are you poor? Still, the apprehension of this event conveys a portion of dismay, which it is difficult entirely to remove. We anticipate, with a strong feeling of horror, those bitter agonies, those dreadful pangs, which precede and accompany dissolution. We behold with terror the angel of death approach our dwelling; and when he lays hold on us to hasten our struggling nature away, we shrink from his grasp, and cling to the world with a delirious embrace, as if all our hopes and wishes were centred in its riches and gratifications. We do not reflect with sensations of pleasure on that event which excludes us from the light of heaven, and consigns us to the damps and darkness of the grave, in which our body must eventually be deposited, to be food for worms, and to encounter corruption and decay. We shudder at the thought of being placed in the earth and covered over

* Star in the East p. 65.—Hutch. Sp. of Mas. p. 109.

with mould; and when the green sod is laid upon our grave, to have taken a last, an eternal farewell of the world and its inhabitants. But we have a still greater dread of this event when we reflect on the eternal destruction of the soul. We know it must be separated from the body; we know that its doom, once pronounced, is irrevocable; and we recoil from the prospect of the second death, with consternation and horror. A few brief instructions how to subdue these feelings, may be neither improper nor unacceptable at the conclusion of this Lecture. Fear God and keep his commandments, says a certain Degree of Masonry, after King Solomon, for this is the whole duty of man.²⁵ I would recommend to you the practice of Temperance, not so much to preserve your constitution untainted, as to prepared for its final dissolution. I would recommend the practice of the golden rule, *do unto others as you would have them do to you*, not so much to preserve the peace and order of civil society, (which, notwithstanding, it cannot fail to do,) as to inspire in your own bosoms a love of virtue and good will to man. I would recommend Benevolence and Charity, not merely to provide for the necessities of indigence, but to introduce into your soul the fine feelings of humanity, and an extended philanthropy, which may embrace in the bonds of love the whole human race. In a word, I would press upon you the practice of Virtue, and not so much for its own sake, as in obedience to the divine command, and in humble imitation of Jesus Christ, whose beneficence was extended to his most obdurate enemies, and who has promised everlasting happiness to all who follow his pure and holy example. If, then, to your faith you add the virtues of a good life; if you do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God, you have a protection against the fear of death, which nothing earthly can remove or take away; for you have the promise of scripture, that in this case, your latter end shall be in peace.²⁶ Death is divested of his sting; and, as your pulse advances to its dying throb, you will serenely await the awful moment when the soul takes wing into the boundless

²⁵ Eccles. xii. 13.

²⁶ Psalm xxxvii. 37.

and unexplored expanse, and in silent meditation you will reflect, I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day.²¹

²¹ 2 Timothy iv. 7, 8.

LECTURE VII.

ON THE THREE PILLARS—WISDOM, STRENGTH, AND BEAUTY.

"When orient WISDOM beam'd serene,
And pillar'd STRENGTH arose ;
When BEAUTY tinged the glowing scene,
And Faith her mansion chose ;
Exulting bands the fabric view'd,
Mysterious powers adored,
And high the TRIPLE union stood,
That gave the mystic WORD,"

Stanfield.

THE emblematical foundation of a Masons' Lodge is Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. These three noble Pillars give it a stability which no exertion of art or ingenuity can subvert, no force can overthrow. They were thus named in allusion to the perfection with which our system has been endowed by the Almighty Architect ; because without Wisdom to contrive, Strength to support, and Beauty to adorn, no structure can be perfect. And this is illustrated by a reference to the most splendid and awful images which can be presented to the human mind. The universe is the temple of the Deity whom we serve ; Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty are about his Throne as Pillars of his work ; for his wisdom is infinite, his strength is Omnipotence, and his beauty shines forth through all his creation in symmetry and order. He hath stretched forth the heavens as a canopy, the earth he hath planted as his footstool ; he hath crowned this superb temple with stars as with a diadem, and, in his hand he extendeth the power and the glory : the sun and moon are messengers of his will, and all his laws are concord.¹ This universal harmony of nature and nature's

¹ Hutch. Sp. of Mas. p. 75.

works, emblematical of the peace and unity which subsists in a Masons' Lodge, is produced from the union of those sublime qualities by which our fabric is supported, Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty.

The first Pillars used by the primitive inhabitants of the earth, were merely trunks of trees, placed upright on stones to elevate them above the damp, and covered at the top with a flat stone to keep off the rain. On these the roofs of their huts were placed, covered with reeds and plastered with clay to resist the effects of tempestuous weather. From such simple elements sprang the noble Orders of Architecture. But Pillars were not confined to this use alone. In primitive times they were appropriated to the purpose of perpetuating remarkable events; and were erected as monuments of gratitude to Divine Providence for favours conferred, or for dangers avoided. By the idolatrous race who first seceded from the true worship of God, Pillars were dedicated to the *Host of Heaven*. Of this nature were the Pillars set up by Hypsouranios and Ousous, to Fire and Air before the Flood, which were termed *βαρυνθια*.² Osiris set up Pillars in commemoration of his conquests, on which were hieroglyphical inscriptions, importing the degree of resistance made by the inhabitants of those countries which he subdued. The ancient kings of Egypt followed this example, and usually engraved records of their conquests, power, and magnificence, on obelisks or pillars.³ Sesostria, in his military progress through the nations he had vanquished, erected pillars, on which hieroglyphical inscriptions were engraven, accompanied by certain emblematical devices, expressive of the bravery or pusillanimity of the conquered people.⁴ And, if Proclus may be believed, all extraordinary events, singular transactions, and new inventions, were recorded by the Egyptians on stone pillars. Hiram, king of Tyre, according to Menander, dedicated a pillar of gold to Jupiter, on the grand junction he had formed between Eurichorus and Tyre.⁵

This custom was also in use amongst the descendants of Seth and Shem; who erected Pillars to the honour of the true God, the creator and preserver of all things.

² Sanoh. in Euseb. de præp. evan. l. i. c. 10.

³ Diod. Strabo. &c.

⁴ Diod. Sic. l. i. c. 4.

⁵ Ios. con. Apion.

Enoch erected two Pillars, in order to transmit his knowledge to posterity, by inscriptions engraven on such materials as were calculated to resist the element by which the world was to be destroyed. The Pillar of Jacob, at Bethel,⁶ was constructed to commemorate his most extraordinary vision and covenant with God. On this pillar he poured oil, whence arose the custom amongst the heathens of consecrating their idols by anointing them with oil. A similar monument was erected by the same patriarch at Galeed, to perpetuate the treaty of amity with his uncle Laban;⁷ by Joshua at Gilgal, on his miraculous passage over the river Jordan;⁸ and by Samuel, between Mizpeh and Shen, on a remarkable defeat of the Philistines.⁹ Absalom erected a Pillar in honour of himself,¹⁰ which, as we are told by modern travellers, remains to this day; but Dr. Lloyd says that the passers by throw stones at it in detestation of his memory. And Solomon set up two Pillars at the entrance of the Porch of the Temple, to remind the Jews of their dependance upon God for every thing they possessed; evidenced by their escape from Egypt, and their miraculous wandering and preservation in the wilderness for a period of forty years.¹¹

It is needless to add that commemorative Columns were used by every nation of the world; and never with more propriety and effect than in our own country at the present day.

The particular Pillars which are the subject of this

⁶ Genesis xxviii. 18.

⁷ Genesis xxxi. 45.

⁸ Joshua iv. 20.

⁹ 1 Samuel vii. 12.

¹⁰ 2 Samuel xviii. 18.

¹¹ "The pillars erected at the porch of the Temple," says Hutchinson, in his Spirit of Masonry, published under the sanction of the Grand Lodge, "were not only ornamental, but also carried with them an emblematical import in their names. Boaz being, in its literal translation, *in thee is strength*; and Jachin, *it shall be established*; which, by a very natural transposition may be put thus: O Lord, thou art mighty, and thy power is *established* from everlasting to everlasting. Or, otherwise, they might imply, as Boaz was the father of David, the house of David shall be established for ever. I am justified in this latter application by the express words of Nathan the Prophet unto David, inspired by the vision of the Lord, (2 Sam. vii. 12, 13, 16). And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish thy kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. *And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee; thy throne shall be established for ever.*"

Lecture, are emblematical of three great Masonic characters, whose united abilities rendered an essential service to true religion, by the construction of a primitive Temple, then first dedicated to the exclusive purpose of religious worship; for they jointly possessed the essential properties which characterize the three great sustaining Pillars of our Lodge; the one had Wisdom to contrive; another had Strength to support;¹² and the third possessed genius and ability to adorn the edifice with unexampled Beauty. The result of this union was "a building which highly transcended all that we are capable to imagine, and has ever been esteemed the finest piece of masonry upon earth, before or since."¹³ "This magnificent work was begun in Mount Moriah, on Monday the second day of the month Zif, which answers to the twenty-first of our April, being the second month of the sacred year; and was carried on with such speed, that it was finished in all its parts in a little more than seven years, which happened on the eighth day of the month Bul, which answers to the twenty-third of our October, being the seventh month of the sacred year, and the eleventh of king Solomon. What is still more astonishing, is, that every piece of it, whether timber, stone, or metal, was brought ready cut, framed, and polished to Jerusalem, so that no other tools were wanted nor heard, than what were necessary to join the several parts together. All the noise of axe, hammer, and saw, was confined to Lebanon, and the quarries and plains of Zeredathah, that nothing might be heard among the masons of Sion, save harmony and peace."¹⁴

These Pillars refer further to the three governors of the Lodge. The pillar of Wisdom represents the W. M., whose business is to exert his judgment and penetration, in *contriving* the most proper and efficient means of completing the intended work, of what nature soever it may

¹² "Tatian, in his Book against the Greeks, relates, that amongst the Phœnicians flourished three ancient historians, Theodotus, Hysicrates, and Mochus, who all of them delivered, in their histories, an account of the league and friendship between Solomon and Hiram, when Hiram gave his daughter to Solomon, and furnished him with timber for building the Temple. The same is affirmed by Menander of Pergamus."—*Sir Isaac Newton's Chron.* p. 114.

¹³ North. Const. p. 26.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* p. 25.

be. The pillar of Strength refers to the S. W., whose duty is to *support* the authority and facilitate the designs of the Master with all his influence amongst the Brethren, and to see that his commands are carried into full and permanent effect. The pillar of Beauty is the J. W., whose duty it is to *adorn* the work with all his powers of genius and active industry; to promote regularity amongst the Brethren by the sanction of his own good example, the persuasive eloquence of precept, and a discriminative encouragement of merit. Thus, by the united energies of these three presiding Officers, the system is adorned and established firm as a rock in the midst of the ocean, braving the malignant shafts of envy and detraction; its summit gilded with the rays of the meridian sun, though stormy winds and waves beat eternally on its basis.

In the British and other mysteries, these three Pillars represented the great emblematical *Triad of Deity*, as with us they refer to the three principal officers of the Lodge. We shall find, however, that the symbolical meaning was the same in both. It is a fact that, in Britain, the *Adytum* or Lodge was *actually* supported by three stones or pillars, which were supposed to convey a regenerating purity to the aspirant, after having endured the ceremony of initiation in all its accustomed formalities. The delivery from between them was termed a *new birth*.¹⁵ The corresponding Pillars of the Hindu mythology were also known by the names of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, and placed in the east, west, and south, crowned with three human heads. They jointly referred to the Creator, who was said to have planned the Great Work by his infinite *Wisdom*, executed it by his *Strength*, and to have adorned it with all its *Beauty* and usefulness for the benefit of man. These united powers were not overlooked in the mysteries, for we find them represented in the solemn ceremony of initiation by the three presiding Brahmins or Hierophants. The chief Brahmin sat in the east, high exalted on a brilliant throne, clad in a flowing robe of azure, thickly sparkled with golden stars, and bearing in his hand a magical rod; thus symbolizing Brahma, the creator of the world. His two compeers, clad in robes of equal magnificence, occupied corresponding situations

¹⁵ *Hieroglyphica*. c. iii.—Dav. Druids, p. 280.

of distinction. The representative of Vishnu, the setting sun, was placed on an exalted throne in the west; and he who personated Siva, the meridian sun, occupied a splendid throne in the south.

The Masonic Lodge, bounded only by the extreme points of the compass, the highest heavens, and the lowest depth of the central abyss, is said to be supported by Three Pillars, Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. In like manner the Persians, who termed their emblematical Mithratic Cave or Lodge the Empyrean, feigned it to be supported by Three Intelligences, Ormizda, Mithra, and Mithras, who were usually denominated, from certain characteristics which they were supposed individually to possess, *Eternity, Fecundity, and Authority*.¹⁶ Similar to this were the forms of the Egyptian deity, designated by the attributes of *Wisdom, Power, and Goodness*,¹⁷ and the *Sovereign Good, Intellect, and Energy* of the Platonists, which were also regarded as the respective properties of the divine Triad.¹⁸

It is remarkable that every mysterious system practised on the habitable globe, contained this Triad of Deity, which some writers refer to the Trinity, and others to the triple offspring of Noah. The Oracle in Damascus asserts that "throughout the world a Triad shines forth, which resolves itself into a Monad;"¹⁹ and the uniform symbol of this threefold deity was an equilateral triangle, the precise form occupied by our pillars of Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. In the mysteries of India, *Brahma, Vishnu, Siva*, were considered as a tri-une god, distinguished by the significant appellation of Tri-murti.²⁰ Brahma was

¹⁶ Vid. Ramsay's *Travels of Cyrus*, and Dissertation thereto annexed.

¹⁷ Plut. de Isid. and Osir. p. 373.

¹⁸ Plat. in Timæo.

¹⁹ It is probable that the idea of Unity was not merely attached to the true God, but to the personification of Adam and Noah, who were equally worshipped in India under the name of Brahma, or the Creative power, because the parent of mankind; for Brahma was confessedly only a created being. If he represented Adam or Noah, the triad Brahma—Vishnu—Siva, was either Abel—Seth—Cain, or Shem—Japhet—Ham; and there exists considerable doubt, after all, whether the being to whom the rites of Hindoo adoration are still devoutly paid, be any thing more than a mere deified mortal. See *Faber's Pagan Idolatry*, (b. i. c. 2.) where many powerful arguments are used to this effect.

²⁰ "The word MURTI or FORM, is exactly synonymous with *eidolon*; and in a secondary sense means an image; but in its primary acceptation

said to be the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver, and Siva the Judge or Destroyer. In the East, as the pillar of Wisdom, this deity was called Brahma; in the West, as the pillar of Strength, Vishnu; and in the South, as the pillar of Beauty, Siva; and hence, in the Indian initiations, as we have just observed, the representative of Brahma was seated in the East, that of Vishnu in the West, and that of Siva in the South. A very remarkable coincidence with the practice of ancient Masonry.

Mr. Faber offers the following reasonable conjecture on the origin of these idolatrous Triads: "Adam was born from the *virgin* earth; Noah was produced from his allegorical mother—the Ark—without the co-operation of a father. Each was a preacher of righteousness; each dwelt upon the paradisiacal mount of God; each was a universal parent. If Adam introduced one world, Noah destroyed that world and introduced another; and as the actual circumstance of two successive worlds led to the doctrine of an endless mundane succession, each patriarch was alike received as a Creator, a Preserver, and a Destroyer."²¹ Sir William Jones very strongly reprobates the principle which would resolve these triads into the doctrine of the Trinity. In his essay on the gods of Italy, Greece, and India,²² he says: "Very respectable natives have assured me, that one or two missionaries have been absurd enough, in their zeal for the conversion of the Gentiles, to urge, that the Hindus were, even now, almost Christians, because their Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesa, (Siva) were no other than the Christian Trinity, a sentence in which we can only doubt whether folly, ignorance, or impiety predominates. The three powers, *creative*, *preservative*, and *destructive*, which the Hindus express by the trilateral word OM, were grossly ascribed, by the first idolaters, to the *heat*, *light*, and *flame* of their mistaken divinity, the Sun; and their wiser successors in the East, who perceived that the sun was only a created thing, applied those powers to its Creator; but the Indian Triad, and that of Plato, which he calls the *Supreme Good*, the *Reason*, and the *Soul*, are infinitely removed

it denotes any shape or appearance assumed by a celestial being."—*Wilford in Asiat. Res.* vol. iii. p. 359.

²¹ *Fab. Pag. Idol.* b. vi. c. 6.

²² *Asiat. Research.* vol. i. p. 272.

from the holiness and sublimity of the doctrine which pious Christians have deduced from texts in the Gospel." "In another point of view," says Captain Wilford,²² "Brahma corresponds with the Chronos or *Time* of the Greek mythologists; Vishnu represents *Water*, or the humid principle; and Iswara (another name of Siva), *Fire*, which recreates or destroys as it is differently employed."

It seems not altogether improbable, however, but these Triads which are quaintly termed by Purchas, "an apish imitation of the Trinity, brought in by the devil,"²³ might *originate* from a tradition of the Holy Trinity, revealed to Adam, and propagated by his descendants through the antediluvian world. Known consequently to Noah and his family, this doctrine would spread with every migration of their posterity; and, as it certainly formed a part of that original system which is now termed Masonry; so it was introduced into every perversion of that system, until the doctrine of a divine Triad resolvable into a monad, was universally disseminated in every nation, and was admitted by every people in the world. In successive ages the true purport became lost or misunderstood, but the principle remained, though its application ceased to be made to the true God and Father of all, and was generally transferred to the three sons of Noah, as a triplication of the mortal Father of the human race.²⁴

²² *Asiat Research*. vol. iii. p. 359. ²³ *Purch. Pilgr.* b. ix. c. 10.

²⁴ "Nearly all the Pagan nations of antiquity, in their various theological systems, acknowledged a kind of Trinity in the divine nature, has been fully evinced by those learned men, who have made the heathen mythology the subject of their elaborate enquiries. The almost universal prevalence of this doctrine in the Gentile kingdoms must be considered as a strong argument in favour of its truth. The doctrine itself bears such striking internal marks of a Divine original, and is so very unlikely to have been the invention of mere human reason, that there is no way of accounting for the general adoption of so singular a belief, but by supposing that it was revealed by God to the early patriarchs, and that it was transmitted by them to their posterity. In its progress, indeed, to remote countries, and to distant generations, this belief became depraved and corrupted in the highest degree, and He alone 'who brought life and immortality to light,' could restore it to its original simplicity and purity. The discovery of the existence of this doctrine in the early ages, among the nations whose records have been the best preserved, has been of great service to the cause of Christianity, and completely refutes the assertion of infidels and sceptics, that the sublime and mys-

The Grecian Triad consisted of Jupiter—Neptune—Pluto;²⁸ the Orphic of Phanes—Uranus—Chronus; the Platonic of Tagathon—Nous—Psyche; the Eleusinian of Bacchus—Proserpine—Ceres;²⁷ the Egyptian of Trismegistus or Osiris—Isis—Horus, perhaps of Eicton—Cneph—Phtha; the Persian of the triplasian Mithras or Ormisdā—Mithra—Mithras; the Phenician of Ashtaroth—Milcom—Chemosh;²⁸ the Tyrian of Belus—Venus—Thamuz; the Celtic of Hu—Ceridwen—Creirwy; the Gothic of Woden—Friga—Thor;²⁹ the Peruvian of Tangatanga, or Three in One and One in Three; and the Mexican of Vitzliputzli—Tlaloc—Tescalipuca.³⁰

In our own country the Triad was usually represented by THREE PILLARS; and many monuments remain which show to what an extent this system of devotion was carried by the British Druids. These pillars were not always uniform either in dimensions or situation, but were differently placed, either triangularly or in a right line, and were certainly objects of adoration to the super-

terious doctrine of the Trinity owes its origin to the philosophers of Greece. 'If we extend,' says Mr. Maurice, 'our eye through the remote regions of antiquity, we shall find this very doctrine, which the primitive Christians are said to have borrowed from the Platonic school, universally and immemorially flourishing in all those countries, where history and tradition have united to fix those virtuous ancestors of the human race, who, for their distinguished attainments in piety, were admitted to a familiar intercourse with Jehovah, and the Angels, the Divine heralds of his commands.'"—*Bp. Tomline's Theol.*

²⁸ In this triad it is worthy of remark, that Jupiter is distinguished by the *three-forked lightning*; Neptune, by the *trident*; and Pluto by Cerberus, the *three-headed dog*.

²⁷ In a temple mentioned by Pausanias (*Attic. p. 6*), Bacchus, Ceres, and Proserpine were worshipped together. In another temple, Ceres, Proserpine, Minerva, and Apollo; and in a third the West Wind, Ceres, Proserpine, Minerva, and Neptune, were united objects of adoration.—*Jul. Firm. de Error. Prof. Rel. p. 89, 91.*

²⁸ This was the form of that abominable Triad worshipped by King Solomon in his dotage, on the three peaks of Mount Olivet.—2 Kings xxiii. 13.

²⁹ Olaus Magnus, in his history of the Goths, tells us that the Lithuanians worshipped a triad consisting of Fire, Wood, and Serpents.

³⁰ The tenets of religion amongst our ancestors were founded on *three* fundamental articles, viz., reverence for the Deity—abstaining from evil—behaving valiantly in battle; and the triad rule for the preservation of health was, cheerfulness, temperance, exercise.—(*Smith Gael. Ant. p. 80.*) Aristotle and Plutarch say that the number three was held mysterious because it comprehended the beginning—middle—end.

stitious natives.³¹ The celebrated Pillars at Borough-bridge were of this nature. They consist of three colossal, upright stones, placed at about two hundred feet distant from each other, and stand about twenty-two feet above the surface of the ground, measuring on an average sixteen feet in circumference. They are termed by the country people The Devil's Arrows, which corroborates the opinion that they were British deities; for, it is a singular fact, that every monument which has this name attached to it, is supposed to have been peculiarly sacred.³² Leland tells us³³ that there were originally *four* Pillars, and that one of them has been destroyed.³⁴ This might have been of still more extensive magnitude, and designed to express the triad completed in a monad. The three³⁵ stones, which formed one of the *Adyta* in the stupendous Druid Temple, at Abury in Wiltshire, said by Gough in Camden to have served for a chapel, are called by Aubrey, The Devil's Quoits. A Kist-vaen in Clatford bottom, in the same county, is also composed of three upright stones, and is called The Devil's Den. In the parish of Llan Rhwy-Drus, in that grand depository of Druidical superstition, Anglesey, are the remains of this species of idol. Gibson, in Camden, informs us that they are placed triangularly; one is eleven feet, and the other ten and nine feet in height. On a mountain near Kil y maen lhwyl, in Caermarthenshire, is another specimen of this kind of monument, placed near a circular temple. In Penrith church-yard, in the county of Cumberland, still remain three pillars, placed triangularly, and erected on other stones to avoid the supposed contamination of the earth. Two of them are about twelve feet, and the third about six feet in height. The two former enclose a space of ground which is traditionally denominated the Giant's Grave, and the latter is the Giant's Tomb. Now the British deities were all esteemed giants, and the tra-

³¹ Pennant's Tour from Alston Moor to Harrogate, p. 96.

³² The reasons for this belief are fully discussed in my "Antiquities of Grimsby," p. 59, 60.

³³ Itin. v. 8.

³⁴ Vid. also Drake's Hist. of York, p. 27.

³⁵ The Druids had an extraordinary veneration for the number *three*; and on this principle, says Vallancey, it was, that the mistletoe was held so sacred by them, since not only its berries, but its leaves, also, grow in clusters of three united on one stalk.

dition, in this instance, corresponds with the fact. Besides, the Pastos, or symbolical grave, in which the candidate suffered a mythological interment, was said to be guarded by the gigantic deity, Buanwr, and if these three pillars formed constituent parts of an adytum, which is highly probable, the name it now retains is perfectly consistent with the pure principles of British mythology. Much has been written on the subject of these Pillars by all our best antiquaries, who seem to agree that they were of British erection, though they puzzled to account for their being inscribed with a Cross. But this, doubtless, arose from the anxiety uniformly displayed by the first Christian missionaries, to transfer the devotional attachment of the natives from a lifeless image to the eternal God, by assuming *the great emblem of Christianity*, which had, indeed, been previously used by the Druids, but with a different allusion. And this conjecture is strikingly exemplified by the fact, that a Christian church was erected within the actual bounds of this sanctuary of idolatry.

Such were the representatives of Hu—Ceridwen—Creirwy, the principal deities of the ancient inhabitants of this island, or their substitutes the three presiding officers of the British mysteries, who were denominated Cadeiriath, Goronwy, and Fleidwr Flam, seated in the east, west, and south. Before these senseless blocks of unhewn stone, the more senseless inhabitants of Britain prostrated themselves daily in humble adoration, firmly persuaded that their prosperity in every undertaking, nay, even the preservation of their lives and liberties, was dependant on the beneficent agency of these shapeless idols!

I shall conclude the present Lecture with a brief consideration of the ultimate reference which the Three Masonic Pillars bear to your moral and religious duties. As the Doric, the Ionic, and the Corinthian Orders of Architecture are said to support your Lodge, so let your conduct be governed by the qualities they represent. Let *Wisdom* guide your steps to that fountain of knowledge, and source of truth, the Holy Bible. There shall you find rules for the government of your actions, and the path that leads to eternity. Even the science you profess instructs you, that if you be conversant in the

doctrines of this Holy Book, and strictly adherent to its precepts, it will conduct you to a building not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Proceed in this career, armed with the *Strength* of faith and hope, assured that if your faith in the Deity be securely founded, your constancy can never fail; so shall your charity shine forth in all the *Beauty* of holiness; your acts of piety and virtue shall emit a brilliancy like the Sun, pursuing his daily course in the heavens, and finally secure you a place in the Grand Lodge above, where Peace, Order, and Harmony eternally abide.

LECTURE VIII.

ON THE MASONIC LADDER.

"————— Far distant he descrys,
Ascending by *Degrees* magnificent
Up to the wall of heaven, a structure high,
At top whereof, but far more rich, appear'd,
The work as of a kingly palace gate.

* * * * *

The *Stairs* were such as whereon Jacob saw
Angels ascending and descending."

Milton.

WE have now contemplated the great object of our FAITH and HOPE; we have beheld the unlimited power exhibited in the expulsion of our first parents from the garden of Eden, and the subsequent destruction of the antediluvian world; events which have been uniformly grafted into all the mysteries of heathen nations. And we have considered, with feelings of surprise and regret, how mankind renounced the true and living God in conjunction with LIGHT, and devoted themselves to imaginary deities, who were worshipped in union with *Darkness*; which elicited the vengeance of insulted Purity in a series of scourges inflicted on them by war, pestilence, and famine. But, in the midst of justice, He always remembered mercy. After the first great display of power in the general destruction of mankind, this gracious Being placed his bow in the clouds, as a divine token that mercy should now prevail; and that he would no more destroy the earth by a flood of waters. And, when mankind had degenerated to the lowest point of human depravity, he sent his Son to make atonement for them, that lost purity might be restored, faith and hope placed on a firm foundation, and his fallen creatures

readmitted within the sphere of his favour and protection. Thus the dark clouds of divine wrath are dissipated; the heavens are opened; and we enjoy a ray of his glory in the *celestial covering of the Lodge*. And more than this: the same divine Being has taught us how to attain the summit of the same, by means which are emblematically depicted by a ladder consisting of three principal ROUNDS or STAVES, which point to the three Theological Virtues, FAITH, HOPE, and CHARITY. We are now to consider the origin and application of this Symbol, by which a communication is opened between the creature and his Creator, with the gracious design of restoring to man that supreme happiness which was forfeited by Adam's transgression.

The application of this emblem is said to be derived from the vision of Jacob. When the Patriarch, to avoid the wrath of his brother Esau, fled to Padanaram, benighted and asleep, with the earth for his bed, a stone for his pillow, and the cloudy canopy of heaven for his covering, he beheld a LADDER, whose foot was placed on the spot where he lay, and its summit lost in the subtile ether. On this Ladder angels continually ascended and descended, to receive communications from the Most High, who visibly appeared above the uppermost round of the Ladder, and to disseminate their divine commissions over the face of the earth. Here God graciously condescended to enter into a specific covenant with the sleeping Patriarch; who was hence so impressed with the feelings of gratitude and devotion, that, when he awoke, he pronounced this consecrated spot, "the house of God, and the gate of heaven."¹

The history of an event of such importance, connected with a very significant emblem, which was, probably, a square pyramid with steps on every side, might, with unequivocal effect, be introduced by Jacob into the system of Masonry which he taught to his children,² and from them be transplanted into the mysteries of Egypt, whence it might spread into other countries, until the symbol became common to the mysteries of all. I rather incline to the opinion, however, that its origin may be ascribed to a much earlier period, even to the first institution of

¹ Genesis xxviii. 17.

² Vid. *Antiq. of Masonry*, p. 204.

Masonry in Paradise; when the communication between God and man was immediately and unrestrainedly practised by the common parents of mankind. The ascent to the summit of the paradisiacal mount of God, by means of a pyramid consisting of seven steps, was an old notion, certainly entertained before the vision of Jacob; for it prevailed amongst the Mexican Savages;³ and the original settlers on the vast continent of America could have no knowledge of this vision, either by tradition or personal experience. The Jewish Cabalists entertained a belief that the paradisiacal mount was the place of residence chosen by the children of Seth, while the contaminated descendants of Cain resided in the plains below; and its altitude was said to be so great, that from its summit might be heard the angels of heaven singing their celestial anthems before the throne of God!

In ancient Masonry, the Ladder was figuratively said to rest on the Holy Bible, and to consist of three *principal* staves, although the general number was indefinite, pointing to Faith, Hope, and Charity, as the fundamental virtues which exalt mankind from earth to heaven. But in subsequent ages the Essenes increased the number to *seven*, and subsequently to *ten* principal steps, which were denominated the *Sephiroth*. In the emblematical representation of these divine splendours, we find the three great hypostases of the godhead surmounting the seven steps of the Ladder, and by regular gradations ascending to the celestial abodes. The names of the Seven Sephiroth were, *Strength, Mercy, Beauty, Victory or Eternity, Glory, the Foundation, and the Kingdom*. Initiation was considered absolutely necessary to entitle the candidate to a participation in these divine splendours, which communicated with each other by progressive stages, until, from the summit of the Ladder, the three hypostases of

³ In the midst of a thick forest, says M. Humboldt, called Tajin, near the gulf of Mexico, rises the pyramid of Papantla. It had seven stories; was built of hewn stone, and was very beautifully and regularly shaped. Three staircases led to the top. The covering of its steps was decorated with hieroglyphical sculpture and small niches, which were arranged with great symmetry. The number of these niches seems to allude to the three hundred and eighteen simple and compound signs of the days of the Compuahuilhuitl, or civil calendar of the Toltecs.—*Researches in America*, vol. i. p. 86.

the divine nature were attained, whose consummation was a crown of glory and the throne of God.



Amongst the heathen this ladder always consisted of seven steps or gradations; probably as a memorial of the seven magnificent Stories of the Tower of Babel; or it might have been derived from a tradition respecting the establishment of the Sabbath, in commemoration of the great day of rest which followed the creation and received the peculiar benediction of the Most High.⁴ This division of time and consecration of the seventh day was known to the sons of Noah, as we may gather from our own Scriptures, for it was practically enforced by the patriarch while he continued in the Ark.⁵ Hence the sacred nature of the seventh day was universally acknowledged by all nations of their posterity;⁶ and consequently many

⁴ Genesis ii. 3.

⁵ Ibid. viii. 10. 12.

⁶ Dion. Cass. l. xxxiii. Acosta and Humboldt are of opinion that no nation of the New Continent was acquainted with the week or cycle of seven days. But Garcilasso, Bailly, and Lalande unite in believing that the natives of America did compute their time by this cycle like the inhabitants of the Old World.

mysterious properties were applied to the number itself.⁷ The extreme probability that the number seven was applied to the Theological Ladder with this reference, may be deduced from the fact, that each gradation was appropriated to *a day in the week*, and also to a particular planet; and it is observable that the seven days, and the seven planets, were made to correspond in almost every country in the world. Our own names of both may be referred to as a corroboration of the system. Thus Sunday is so called from the Sun; Monday, from the Moon; Tuesday and Wednesday, from Tuisco and Woden, the Gothic Mercury and Mars; Thursday, from Thor, the Jupiter of the same people;⁸ Friday, from the goddess Friga, who, amongst the Getæ, corresponds with the Grecian Venus; and Saturday, from the idol Seater, who represented Saturn amongst the northern nations of Europe.⁹

The Ladder with seven steps was used in the Indian mysteries to designate the approach of the Soul to perfection. The steps were usually denominated *gates*. The meaning is undoubtedly the same; for it is observable that Jacob, in reference to the lower *stave* of his Ladder, exclaimed: "this is the house of God, and the *gate* of heaven." Here we find the notion of ascending to heaven by means of the practice of moral virtue, depicted by the Hebrew Patriarchs and by a remote idolatrous nation under the idea of a *Ladder*; which we may hence conclude was a Masonic symbol much earlier than the time of Jacob. These gates were said to be composed of different metals of gradually increasing purity; each being dignified with the name of its protecting planet. The

⁷ The Druids assigned to man seven senses. Thus Taliesin says: "of seven faculties, one is what I know by instinct; with the second I touch; with the third I call; with the fourth I taste; with the fifth I see; with the sixth I hear; with the seventh I smell."—*Owen's Dict. v. Rhyniaw.*

⁸ There exists some degree of confusion relative to the appropriation of these days. Tuisco may be more properly assimilated with the Roman Mercury, and Woden with Mars. But Tertullian says (Apol. c. ix.) that Thor was the same as Mercury; and Brady tells us that (Clav. Calend. vol. i. p. 117) "the Romans dedicated Wednesday to Mercury, from which cause it was called Dies Mercurii, feria quarta; and the Roman Mercury and the Saxon Odin have from thence, and in despite of the Roman Idol not having been a warrior, usually been regarded as the same deity."

⁹ Verst. Rest. of Decr Intell. c. iii.—Brady's Clav. Calend.

first and lowest was composed of lead, and dedicated to Saturn; the second of quicksilver, sacred to Mercury; the third of copper, under the protection of Venus; the fourth of tin, typical of Jupiter; the fifth of iron, sacred to Mars; the sixth of silver, dedicated to the Moon; and the uppermost stave, which constituted the summit of perfection, and opened a way to the residence of celestial deities, was composed of the pure and imperishable substance of gold, and was under the protection of their Most High God, the Sun.

In these mysteries, during the ceremony of initiation, the candidate was passed successively through seven dark and winding caverns;¹⁰ which progress was mystically denominated, *the ascent of the Ladder*. Each cavern terminated in a narrow stone orifice, which formed an entrance into its successor. Through these gates of purification, the mortified aspirant was compelled to squeeze his body with considerable labour; and when he had attained the summit, he was said to have passed through the transmigration of the spheres, to have accomplished the ascent of the soul, and to merit the favour of the celestial deities. These seven stages of initiation, emblematical of the seven worlds, are thus explained. "The place where all beings, whether fixed or moveable, exist,

¹⁰ In every country under heaven the initiations were performed in caverns either natural or artificial. Several of the former are still in existence in this country. There is a remarkable one in Somersetshire, called Wokey hole; which is described as a *very dark and dismal cavern consisting of various apartments*, amongst which one is now called a hall, another the kitchen, others the ball room, cellar, &c. There are also resemblances of a man's head, a monument or tombstone, a dog, the statue of a woman (in white stone), called the old witch, a table, and many other artificial things in the natural rock. *There are two cisterns always full of clear water, which trickles from the top of the rock, but never runs over in great quantities.* A huge stone, which, when lifted from, and let fall to the ground, *makes a noise like the report of a cannon*, has for that reason got the appellation of the great gun. There are also two rivulets abounding in trout and eels, which run through this cave *making a tremendous noise*; one of them turns several mills after it is out. The inside of this cave is rocky and uneven, the surface ascending and descending, as is the case in most other subterraneous places. It is in some places eight fathoms, or forty-eight feet, high, and in others not above six. Its length is computed to be about six hundred and forty feet; in some parts the water, dropping from the rock, hangs down like icicles, which has a very beautiful effect. The rock inside is of different colours, being in some parts of a silvery hue, while in others it glitters like diamonds.

is called earth, which is the *First World*. That in which beings exist a second time, but without sensation, again to become sensible at the close of the period appointed for the duration of the present universe, is the *World of Re-existence*. The abode of the good, where cold, heat, and light are perpetually produced, is named *Heaven*. The intermediate region between the upper and lower worlds, is denominated the *Middle World*. The heaven, where animals, destroyed in a general conflagration, at the close of the appointed period, are born again, is thence called the *World of Births*. That, in which Sanaca and other sons of Brahma, justified by austere devotion, reside exempt from all dominion, is thence named the *Mansion of the Blessed, Truth*, the Seventh World, and the abode of Brahma,¹¹ is placed on the summit above other worlds. It is attained by true knowledge, by the regular discharge of duties, and by veracity: once attained it is never lost. Truth is, indeed, the seventh world, therefore called the *sublime abode*.¹²

In the Persian mysteries, the candidate, by a similar process, was passed through seven spacious caverns, connected by winding passages, each opening with a narrow portal, and each the scene of some perilous adventure to try his courage and fortitude before he was admitted into the splendid Sacellum, which, being illuminated with a thousand torches, reflected every shade of colour from rich gems and amulets, with which the walls were copiously bedecked. The dangerous progress was denominated *ascending the Ladder* of perfection.

From this doctrine has arisen the tale of Rustam, who was the Persian Hercules, and Dive Sepid, or the White Giant.¹³

¹¹ This being was identified with LIGHT, for the Brahmins say: "because the being who shines with seven rays, assuming the forms of time and fire; matures productions; is resplendent; illuminates, and finally destroys the universe; therefore he who naturally shines with seven rays is called Light, or the effulgent power." (Colebrook. *Asiat. Res.* vol. 5. p. 350.) Thus Brahm is Light; and Light is the principle of life in every created thing. "Light and darkness are esteemed the world's eternal ways; he who walketh in the former path, returneth not, i. e. he goeth immediately to bliss; whilst he who walketh in the latter, cometh back again upon the earth," or is subjected to further tedious transmigrations.—*Bhagvat. Gita.* p. 76.

¹² Colebrooke, in *Asiat. Research.* vol. 5. p. 351.

¹³ Fab. *Pag. Idol.* vol. iii. p. 328.

"Cai-Caus, the successor of Cai-Cobab, the first monarch of the Caianian dynasty, is instigated by the song of a minstrel to attempt the conquest of Mazenderaun, which is celebrated as a perfect earthly Paradise."

This celestial abode refers to the splendid *sacellum* of the Persian Epoptæ, which was an emblematical representation of heaven.

"It lies in the regions of Aspruz, at the foot of which, with respect to Persia, the Sun sets; and in literal geography it is determined to be a province bordering on the Caspian Sea. Hence it is part of that high tract of country denominated the Tabaric or Gordyeen range, within the limits of which the groves of Eden were planted, and the Ark rested after the Deluge. Cai-Caus fails in his enterprise; for the sacred country is guarded by the White Giant, *who smites him and all his troops with blindness*, and makes them his prisoners."

This is a literal account of the first stage of initiation, which, in the mysteries, always commenced with *Darkness*. In those of Britain the candidate is designated as *a blind man*. He is commanded to prepare the Cauldron of Ceridwen, *three drops* of whose contents, properly concocted, were said to possess the faculty of *restoring the sight*, and infusing a knowledge of futurity. Being unsuccessful, Ceridwen (*the giantess*) strikes the unfortunate aspirant a violent blow over his head with an Oar, and causes one of his eyeballs to fall from the socket.¹⁴ And the captivity of Cai-Caus and his Persians in the Cavern, under the rigid guardianship of the Dive, is but a figurative representation of the candidate's inclosure under the Pastos; and this place of penance in the Celtic Mysteries, which had many ceremonies in common with those of Persia,¹⁵ was said to be guarded by the gigantic deity Buanwr, armed with a drawn sword, who is represented as a most powerful and vindictive being, capable, in his fury, of making heaven, earth, and hell, to tremble.¹⁶ In the Gothic mysteries, the same place of captivity and penance is fabled to be guarded by Heimdall, whose trumpet emits so loud a blast, that the sound is heard through all the worlds.¹⁷

¹⁴ Hanes Taliesin. apud Dav. *Druids*, p. 213, 229

¹⁵ Borl. *Ant. of Corn.* b. ii. c. 22.

¹⁶ Dav. *Notes on Taliesin's Oad Godden.* ¹⁷ *Edda.* Feb. 15.

"In this emergency the king sends a messenger to Zaul, the father of the hero Rustam, begging his immediate assistance. For the greater dispatch, Rustam takes the shorter, though more dangerous road, and departs alone, mounted on his charger Rakesh."

Here Rustam enters upon the dreadful and dangerous business of initiation, mounted, says the legend, upon the charger Rakesh, or more properly Rakshi. This was a horrible winged animal, whose common food is said to have been serpents and dragons. Now these reptiles, together with monsters compounded of two or more animals, were the ordinary machinery used in the mysteries to prove the courage and fortitude of the aspirant, during his progress through the seven stages of regeneration.

"The course which he chooses is styled, *THE ROAD OF THE SEVEN STAGES*; and at each of the first six he meets with a different adventure by which his persevering courage is severely tried."

At each of the seven stages the candidate really encountered many dangers; and vanquished a multitude of dives, dragons, and enchanter's who, in succession, opposed his progress to perfection.¹⁸ Being pantomimically enacted during the process of initiation, and the reiterated attacks prosecuted with unrelenting severity, instances have occurred where the poor affrighted wretch has absolutely expired through excess of fear.

"Having at length, however, fought his way to the *seventh*, he discovers his prince and the captive Persians; when he learns from Cai-Caus, that nothing will restore his sight but the application of *three drops of blood* from the heart of the *White Giant*."

The symbolical *three drops of blood*, had its counterpart in all the mysteries of the ancient world; for the number three was ineffable, and the conservator of many virtues. In Britain, the emblem was three drops of water; in Mexico, as in this legend, three drops of blood; in India, it was a Belt composed of three triple threads; in China, the three strokes of the letter Y, &c., &c.

"Upon this, he attacks his formidable enemy in the

¹⁸ Shah name, in Richardson's Dissert. East. Nat.

Cavern where he was accustomed to dwell; and having torn out his heart, after an obstinate combat, he infuses the prescribed three drops into the eyes of Cai-Caus, who immediately regains his power of vision."

In this tale we have the theological Ladder connected with the system of Persian initiation transferred from mythology to romance; and the coincidence is sufficiently striking to impress the most ordinary observer with the strict propriety of the application. The candidate comes off conqueror and is regularly restored to light, after having giving full proof of his courage and fortitude, by surmounting all opposing dangers. Father Angelo, who went out as a missionary into the East about 1663, says, that in the midst of a vast plain between Shiraz and Shuster, he saw a *quadrangular* monument of stupendous size, which was said to have been erected in memory of this great enterprise of the hero Rustam. The fact is, that this quadrangular inclosure was an ancient place of initiation; and from a confused remembrance of the scenes of mimic adventure which were represented within its *seven secret caverns*, the fabulous labours of Rustam had, doubtless, their origin.

It is not the least singular part of this enquiry, that the followers of Mahomet still use the same form of expression to convey an idea of the progressive state of torment in the infernal regions. This is only a continuation of the doctrine of the mysteries, which taught, that the initiation of candidates was in reality a representation of the descent of the soul into Hades, and of its passage through the seven stages of purification preparatory to its admission into the abode of light and purity. They say that Hell has *Seven Gates*, each containing a different degree of punishment. The first and least severe they call *Gehennem*, which is prepared for all Mussulmans who are sinners. The second called *Ladha*, is for the Christians. The third is the Jewish Hell, and called *Hothama*. *Sair*, the fourth, is for Sabians; and *Sacar*, the fifth, for Magians. Pagans and Idolaters occupy the sixth, which they call *Gehim*; and the lowest and most horrible depth of hell they assign to hypocrites, who pretend to more religion than their neighbours, and set themselves up as patterns of perfection, while inwardly they are full of all kinds of wickedness and

impiety. This dreadful *gate*, or place of eternal punishment, is called *Haaviath*.²⁹

You will much wonder at these very extraordinary coincidences, which are exceedingly valuable, because undesigned; and render the conjecture highly probable that they were but an imitation of the Masonic Ladder, as used in our science before the mysteries had a being. But I have yet to introduce to your notice a coincidence still more remarkable, because proceeding from a country where such a tradition could scarcely be expected to exist. Yet it is no less true that distinct traces of this Ladder, attended by the very same references, are found in the inhospitable regions of Scandinavia, which have been indubitably preserved in the Gothic mysteries, though the application is somewhat more obscure.

The court of the gods, says the Edda, is ordinarily kept under a great Ash Tree called Ydrasil, where they distribute justice. This Ash is the greatest of all trees; its branches cover the surface of the earth; its top reaches to the highest heavens; and it is supported by three vast roots, one of which extends to the ninth world, or hell. An eagle, whose piercing eye discovers all things, perches upon its uppermost branches. A squirrel is continually running up and down to bring news; while a parcel of serpents, fastened to the trunk, endeavour to destroy him. The serpent Nidhogger continually gnaws at its root. From under one of the roots runs a fountain, wherein wisdom lies concealed. From a neighbouring spring, (the fountain of past things,) three virgins are continually drawing a precious water, with which they irrigate the Ash Tree; this water keeps up the beauty of its foliage; and, after having refreshed its leaves, falls back again to the earth, where it forms the dew of which the bees make their honey.³⁰

Mr. Mallet offers no conjecture on this mysterious tree, and Mr. Cottle fairly gives it up. I pronounce it, however, to have been the Theological Ladder of the Gothic mysteries. Mr. Cottle, in the preface to his interesting version of the Edda of Saemund, says: "the symbolical purport of this Tree is inexplicable amidst the dearth of information respecting the ancient religion of

²⁹ Oalm. Hist. Diet.

³⁰ Mall. North. Ant. vol. i. c. 6.

Scandinavia;" and without a reference to the various system of initiation into the religious mysteries of other nations, I should incline to that gentleman's opinion. But, by comparing the qualities and characteristics of this sacred Tree with the Ladder of the mysteries, the difficulty vanishes, and the solution appears at once simple and natural.

The basis of Ydrasil, like that of Jacob's Ladder, was the earth, where it was firmly established by three vast roots, one of which extended to the central abyss. These roots evidently referred to the three lower gates, or chambers of initiation, the last of which was Hades, or the region of the dead. Its branches covered the earth, and its top reached to the heavens, where sat, enthroned, an eagle, the representative of the supreme God. The court of the inferior gods was said to be under this tree; and Jacob said of the place where the foot of his ladder was situated, this is the house of God and the gate of heaven. On its summit sat the emblematical eagle, as Jehovah appeared on the ladder of Jacob, or on the paradisiacal mountain; and this bird, as we have already seen, was actually a component part of the visible symbol of the true God, as exhibited in the Jewish Cherubim; and the universal representation of the Deity in almost every nation under heaven. A squirrel, or messenger, continually ascended and descended, to carry celestial commissions from the eagle-deity, to the council of inferior gods seated below, whence they were supposed to be disseminated over the face of the earth. And the same subordinate deities were said to take cognizance of the actions of mortals, and to convey an impartial account thereof by the squirrel to the deity seated on the summit of the Tree; which was also the office of the angelic messengers on Jacob's Ladder. A parcel of serpents, symbols of the evil power, unceasingly endeavoured to intercept the communication between God and man, by the destruction of the messenger. The monstrous serpent NIDHOGGER, who is the representation of the prince of darkness himself, we are further told,^a continually gnaws its root for the same purpose, willing to sever the connection

^a Edda. Fab. viii.

between the Creator and his fallen creatures, by the total demolition of the medium through which the benevolent communication is carried on. In the Hindu mythology, the prince of the evil daemons is represented as a large serpent, whose name is NAGA. And the Hebrew name for the tempter of Eve in Paradise, translated in our version of the Bible, "the serpent," was NACHASH. These were, both, the Nidhogger of the Gothic mysteries. In the Essenian mysteries, the Holy Bible was figuratively said to be the consecrated foundation of Jacob's Ladder, because the covenants and promises of God are permanently recorded in that sacred book; and this basis, the old serpent who deceived Eve is continually endeavouring to destroy, by subverting the faith of mankind in its contents.

The three roots are emblems of Faith, Hope, and Charity, because it is by the exercise of these virtues alone, that man can enjoy a well-grounded expectation of ascending from earth to heaven. Three Virgins, symbols of Past, Present, and Future, continually watered this Tree from *the fountain of Past Things*; which is expressive of the solemn truth, that the deeds of men shall be kept in perpetual remembrance until the last day, when they shall be rewarded or punished, according to their works. From the surplus of this water which fell to the earth, after having refreshed the leaves of the Ash, the bees made their honey. In all the ancient mysteries, *Honey* was an acknowledged symbol of death; and is said, in this case, to have been produced from *the refuse* of the water; which, being rejected by the sacred Tree, referred unquestionably to the *evil deeds* contained in the water of Past Things (the *good actions* having been absorbed by the Ash, and, consequently, accepted by the Supreme Being, personified in the eagle); and hence the honey which was concocted from it, was emblematical of that second death, which forms the eternal punishment of sin.

In illustration of the contents of this Lecture, I here introduce the following Table, which will exhibit the SEVEN STEPPED LADDER of the mysteries in all its various and extensive application.

NO.	METALS.	COLOURS.	STONES.	PLANETS.	GOTHIC DEITIES.	DAYS OF THE WEEK.	VIRTUES.	ELEMENTS.	JEWISH SEPHIROTH.	INDIAN WORLDS.
7	Gold.	Yellow.	Topaz.	Sol.	Sun.	Sunday.	Charity.	Light.	Kingdom.	Truth.
6	Silver.	White.	Pearl.	Luna.	Moon.	Monday.	Hope.	Water.	Foundation.	Mansion of the Blessed.
5	Iron.	Red.	Ruby.	Mars.	Tuisco.	Tuesday.	Faith.	Fire.	Glory.	World of Births.
4	Tin.	Blue.	Sapphire.	Jupiter.	Thor.	Thursday.	Justice.	Air.	Victory.	Middle World.
3	Copper.	Green.	Emerald.	Venus.	Friga.	Friday.	Fortitude.	Life.	Beauty.	Heaven.
2	Quick-silver.	Purple.	Amethyst.	Mercury.	Woden.	Wednesday.	Temperance.	Thunderbolt.	Mercy.	World of Re-existence.
1	Lead.	Black.	Diamond.	Saturn.	Sesatar.	Saturday.	Prudence.	Earth.	Strength.	First World.

You have here a most extraordinary coincidence of custom with respect to the Masonic Ladder, existing in every region of the world, and all equally applicable to a gradual ascent to heaven by the practice of moral virtue. Amongst us this practice is founded on the strong basis of FAITH, which is the first step of the Ladder resting on the word of God. It produces a well grounded HOPE of sharing the promises recorded in that Sacred Volume; and this is the second step of the Masonic Ladder. The third or more perfect step is CHARITY, by which we attain the summit of the Ladder; metaphorically speaking, the dominion of bliss, and the mansion of pure and permanent delight.

LECTURE IX.

ON THE POINT WITHIN A CIRCLE.

"But though past all diffused, without a shore
His essence; local is his Throne, as meet
To gather the dispersed, as Standards call
The listed from afar; to fix a point,
A *central point*, collective of his sons,
Since finite every nature but his own.
* * * * *

If earth's whole orb by some dire distant eye
Were seen at once, her towering Alps would sink
And levell'd Atlas leave an even sphere.
Thus earth and all that earthly minds admire,
Is swallow'd in *Eternity's vast round*."

Young.

THE progress of error is rapid and uniform, when the restraints, imposed on man's depravity by a pure and peaceable religion, are exchanged for the wild dreams and enthusiastic figments of human invention; and like a spherical body precipitated with violence from the summit of an inclined plane, acquires additional force and velocity at every revolution, until its progress is irresistible. An illustration of this principle will be contained in the present Lecture on that most important emblem of Masonry—A POINT WITHIN A CIRCLE.

Whether we regard this symbol in the purity of its legitimate interpretation; or consider the unlimited corruption which it sustained in its progress through the mysteries of idolatry, the general principle will be found equally significant. It was originally the conservator of a genuine moral precept founded on a fundamental religious truth; but innovation followed innovation, until this degraded symbol became the dreadful depository of obscenity and lust.

The use of this emblem is coeval with the first created man. A primary idea which would suggest itself to the mind of Adam, when engaged in reflections on his own situation, the form of the universe, and the nature of all the objects presented to his view, would be, that *the creation was a circle and himself the centre*. This figure, implanted without an effort, would be ever present in all his contemplations, and would influence his judgment to a certain extent, while attempting to decide on the mysterious phenomena which were continually before him. To persons unacquainted with the intricate philosophy of nature, as we may fairly presume Adam was, this is the plain idea conveyed to the senses by a superficial view of nature's works. Ask an unlettered hind of the present day, and he will tell you that the earth is a circular plane; and perhaps he will have some indistinct notion that the expanse above his head is spherical, but he will assuredly look upon *himself* as the common centre of all. This is consistent with the general appearance of things; for, if he look around, he finds the horizon, unless intercepted by the intervention of sensible objects, equally distant from the point of vision in all its parts. And the experiment uniformly producing the same results whether made by night or day, he relies on the evidence of his senses, and pronounces his own judgment correct and irrefutable. So the first created man. Himself the centre of the system, he would regard Paradise as the limit of the habitable earth, and the expanse as the eternal residence of the omnipresent Deity. A little reflection, however, would soon bring him nearer to the truth. The garden of Eden was of a circular form, and the Tree of Life was placed in the centre;¹ now, as the fruit of this tree was reputed to convey the privilege of immortality, the centre would hence be esteemed the most honourable situation, and be ultimately assigned to the Deity, who alone enjoys the attributes of immortality and eternity; for, Adam, in his progress to different parts of this happy abode, would soon conclude, that however he might be deceived by appearances, *he himself* could not be a permanent centre, because he was constantly changing his position.

¹ Genesis ii. 9.

To this august Circle, the two forbidden Trees were the accompanying perpendicular parallel lines,² pointing out God's equal *justice*, and *mercy*. When Adam had violated the divine command, and eaten of the tree of knowledge, *justice* demanded that the threatened penalty should be paid. But here *mercy* interposed, and he was expelled from the abode of purity and peace, now violated by transgression, "lest he should put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and live for ever"³ in a state of wickedness and sin. Hence arose the Masonic Emblem of a Point within a Circle.

This emblem, united with the Masonic Ladder, was reduced to practice very soon after the universal deluge; and made the basis of a stupendous design which was intended to render man independent of his God, and prevent the misery of being dispersed and scattered abroad in private companies over the face of the earth.⁴ In a former publication,⁵ I quoted a passage from Noorthouck's Constitutions, which assigns a square form to the celebrated Tower of Babel; but, on more mature consideration, I am inclined to think that the opinion is erroneous. The first huts built for the habitation of man, are supposed by Vitruvius to have been erected on a *circular base*, as we know the cabins of the primitive Britons were, with a post in the centre to support the roof. This disposition is in perfect accordance with the principle referred to above; and the form might not sustain any material alteration before the flood; for, the first colo-

² Bishop Newcombe, in his Notes on the Prophet Ezekiel, gives an exemplification of these perpendicular parallel lines. In that prophet's description of the Cherubim, the following passage occurs, "they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward;" (Ez. i. 9.) on which the learned prelate thus remarks: "The wheels and horses of chariots bend and make a circuit in turning; but this divine machine, actuated by one spirit, moved uniformly together; the same line being always preserved between the corresponding cherubs and wheels, the sides of the rectangle limiting the whole, being always parallel, and the same faces of each cherub always looking onward in the same direction with the face of the charioteer. This proceeding directly on, in the same undeviating, inflexible position, seems to show their steadiness in performing the Divine will, which advances to its destined goal right onwards." And again, (v. 17.) "the axis of the former wheels was always parallel to that of the latter. The wheels are supposed to express the revolutions of God's providence; which are regular, though they appear intricate."

³ Genesis iii. 22.

⁴ Ibid. xi. 4.

⁵ Ant. of Freemasonry. p. 92.

nisers of every country after the dispersion, used, with one consent, the same plan in the construction of their domestic edifices. The Tower of Babel may be supposed, therefore, to have partaken of this figure not only from common usage, but also from its similiarity to the spiral flame; for it was dedicated to the sun, as the great agent, according to the belief of these impious architects, employed in drying up the waters of the deluge. Verstegan has given a plate of this edifice in the Title Page to his *Restitution of Decayed Intelligence in Antiquities*; and it is there represented as the frustum of a cone with ~~seven~~ gradations. Calmet has followed this author, and has given also an engraving with the same design. And, indeed, this was the most convenient form for the construction of such a stupendous work. According to Verstegan, "the passage to mount vp, was very wyd and great, and went *wynding about* on the outsyd: the middle and inward parte for the more strength being all massie; and by carte, camels, dromedaries, horses, asses, and mules, the carriages were borne and drawen vp: and by the way were many logings and hosteries both for man and beast. And some authors reporte the space for going vp to haue bin soo exceeding wyd; that there were felides made all along besydes the common passage or highway, for the nuriture of cattle and bringing forth of grain, but how-euer it were, an almost incredible great woork, may it well be thought to haue bin."

Here, then, we have a superb specimen of the Point within a Circle, supporting the Seven Stepped Ladder, delineated in characters which cannot be mistaken; acknowledged by the whole race of men, and occupying their united and undivided energies, to confer upon it the indisputable qualities of magnificence and durability.

The primitive explanation of this mysterious emblem amongst the Gentiles, did not widely differ from the elucidation still used in the Lectures of Masonry. The circle referred to *eternity*, and the central point to *time*, to show that time was only a *point* compared with eternity, and equidistant from all parts of its infinitely extended circumference; because eternity occupied the same indefinite space before the creation of the world in which we

* Rest. Dec. Int. p. 4.

live, as it will do when this world is reduced to its primitive nothing,

When mankind had transferred their adoration from the Creator to his works, they advanced specious reasons to justify a devotion to spheres and circles. Every thing great and sublime which was continually presented to their inspection, partook of this form. The Sun, the unequivocal source of light and heat, was a primary object of attention, and became their chief deity. The earth, the planets, and fixed stars proceeding in all their majestic regularity, excited admiration, and implanted devout feelings in their hearts. These were all spherical; as was also the arch of heaven, illuminated with their unfading lustre. The next progressive observations of mankind would be extended to the unassisted efforts of nature in the production of plants and trees; and these were found to exhibit, for the most part, the same uniform appearances. From the simple stalk of corn, to the bole of the gigantic lord of the forest, the cylinder and cone, and consequently the circle, were the most common forms assumed by the vegetable creation. Every fruit he plucked, every root he dug from the earth for food, was either globular, cylindrical, or conical, each partaking of the nature of a circle. If a tree were divided horizontally, the section uniformly exhibited the appearance of a Point within a succession of concentric Circles. The same will be true of an onion, a carrot, and many other vegetables. Similar results would be produced from an inspection of animal bodies. The trunk is a cylinder: and the intestines, so often critically examined for the purposes of augury, presented to the curious enquirer little variation from the general principle. Hence statues bearing these forms were subsequently dedicated to the Olympic gods: a Cylinder to the Earth, and a Cone to the Sun.⁷

In this figure, Nature, in her most sportive mood, appeared exclusively to delight. If a bubble were excited on the water, it was spherical; and if any solid body were cast upon the surface, the ripple formed itself into innumerable concentric circles rapidly succeeding each other, of which the body, or moving cause, was the com-

⁷ Porph. apud. Euseb. de prep. evan. l. iii. c. 7.

mon centre. If water were cast into the air they found that the drops invariably arranged themselves into a globular form. This uniformity was soon observed, and thought to be a preternatural indication of divinity; for if Nature assumed one unvarying character in all her works, that character must be an unquestionable symbol of the God of Nature. Hence the Circle with its centre distinctly marked, became a most sacred emblem with every nation of idolaters; adopted perhaps from the same symbol used by their forefathers on the plain of Shinar; referring primarily to the immeasurable expanse occupied by infinite space; a proper type of eternity, but now justified by a reference to the works of Nature. This was the general belief, though the expression varied in different ages, and amongst the inhabitants of different nations.

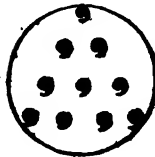
The tribes contiguous to Judea, placed a Jod (י) in the centre of a Circle, as a symbol of the Deity surrounded by Eternity, of which he was said to be the inscrutable author, the ornament and the support. The Samothracians had a great veneration for the Circle, which they considered as consecrated by the universal presence of the deity; and hence Rings were distributed to the initiated, as amulets possessed of the power of averting danger.^a The Chinese used a symbol which bore a great resemblance to that which is the subject of this Lecture. The Circle was bounded north and south by two serpents, (equivalent to the two perpendicular parallel lines of the Masonic symbol;) and was emblematical of the *Universe* protected and supported equally by the *Power* and *Wisdom* of the Creator. The Hindus believed that the supreme Being was correctly represented by a perfect sphere, without beginning and without end.^b The first settlers in Egypt transmitted to their posterity an exact copy of our Point within a Circle, expressed in emblematical language. The widely extended Universe was represented as a Circle of boundless light, in the centre of which the Deity was said to dwell; or in other words, the circle was symbolical of his *eternity*; and the perpendicular parallel lines by which it is bounded, were the two great luminaries of heaven, the Sun and Moon; the former denoting his *virtue*, the latter his *wisdom*. And

^a Plin. Nat. Hist. l. xxxiii. c. 1.

^b Holwel. Hist. Events.

this idea was generally expressed by a hawk's head in the centre of a circle, or an endless serpent enclosing an eye.

But the most expressive symbol to this effect used by any people who had renounced the true religion, was the famous emblem of Pythagoras, who contrived not only to express the only One God residing in the midst of eternity, but united with it an idea of the divine Triad, and blended emblems of regeneration, morality and science. For this purpose he added to the central Jod, nine other Jods disposed about the centre in the form of an equilateral triangle, each side consisting of the number four. The disciples of Pythagoras denominated this symbol *Trigonon-mysticum*, because it was the conservator of many awful and important truths.¹⁰



1. The *Monad*, or active principle.
2. The *Duad*, or passive principle.
3. The *Triad*, or world proceeding from their union.
4. The sacred *Quaternary*, involving the liberal Sciences, Physics, Morality, &c. &c.

Of this remarkable Emblem, a full explanation may be equally interesting and instructive.

The symbol of all things, according to Pythagoras, was *one* and *two*. One added to two make *three*; and once the square of two make *four*, which is the perfect *Tetractys*; and $1+2+3+4=10$ the consummation of all things; and therefore the amount of the points contained within the Pythagorean Circle is exactly Ten. Hence, because the first *four* digits added into each other made up the number *ten*, this philosopher called the number *four* *πᾶρα ἀριθμὸν*, all number, or the *whole number*; and used it as the symbol of universality.¹¹ To ascertain, however, the entire meaning of this symbol, it will be necessary to

¹⁰ Jennings, Jew. Ant. b. i. c. 12.

¹¹ The sum of all the principles of Pythagoras is this: "The Monad is the principle of all things. From the Monad came the indeterminate Duad, as matter subjected to the cause Monad; from the Monad and the indeterminate Duad, numbers; from numbers, points; from points, lines; from lines, superficies; from superficies, solids; from these solid bodies, whose elements are four, Fire, Water, Air, Earth; of all which transmuted, and totally changed, the World consists."—Stanley, *Hist. Phil.* vol. 3, pp. 1, 166.

take the numbers included within the Circle in their natural order, and hear what hidden mystery the philosophy of Pythagoras attached to each.

The number **ONE** was the point within the circle, and denoted the central fire, or God; because it is the beginning and ending—the first and the last. It signified also love, concord, piety, and friendship, because it is so connected that it cannot be divided into parts. **TWO** meant darkness, fortitude, harmony, and justice, because of its equal parts; and the moon, because she is forked. **THREE** referred to harmony, friendship, peace, concord, and temperance. All these, and many other virtues depended on this number and proceeded from it. **FOUR** referred to the deity, for it was considered *the number of numbers*. It is the first solid figure; a point being 1, a line 2, a superficies 3, and a solid 4. It was also the *Tetractys*; a Word sacred amongst the Pythagoreans, and used as a most solemn oath; because they considered it the root and principle, the cause and maker of all things. Plutarch interprets this word differently. He says, it is called *Kosmos*, the world; and, therefore, refers to the number Thirty-six, which consists of the first four odd numbers, added into the first four even ones, thus:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 1 + 2 & = & 3 \\ 3 + 4 & = & 7 \\ 5 + 6 & = & 11 \\ 7 + 8 & = & 15 \end{array}$$

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The Tetractys of Pythagoras, however, was doubtless represented by the number Four; because this was the number of perfection, the divine mind, the image of God, &c.; and the Tetractys was no other than the glorious Tetragrammaton of the Jews

The number **FIVE**,¹³ was Light, nature, marriage, &c. **SIX**, health. **SEVEN**, was said to be *worthy of veneration*,

¹³ The Druids applied this number to the elements. "Five elements there are; that is to say, Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and the Heavens; and out of the four first comes every inanimate matter; and out of the heaven God, and all of live and living; and, from the conjunction of these five came all things, or animate or inanimate they be."—*Cæsar's Dict. v. Nov.*

because it referred to the creation of the world. EIGHT, was the first cube, and signified friendship, council, prudence, and justice. NINE, was called *τελειος*, because a perfect human being undergoes nine months' gestation in the womb; and TEN, was denominated Heaven, because it was the perfection of all things.¹³

The Point within the Circle afterwards became an universal emblem to denote the temple of the Deity, and was referred to the Planetary Circle, in the *centre* of which was fixed the Sun, as the universal god and father of nature; for the whole circle of heaven was called God.¹⁴ Pythagoras esteemed the central fire the supernal mansion of Jove;¹⁵ and he called it *Μεσοῦραιο*, because the most excellent body ought to have the most excellent place; i. e. *the centre*.¹⁶ And Servius tells us it was believed that *the centre* of a temple was the peculiar residence of the Deity; the exterior decorations being merely ornamental.¹⁷ Hence the astronomical character used to denote or represent the Sun, is a Point within a Circle; because that figure is the symbol of perfection. The most perfect metal, gold, is also designated in chymistry by the same character.

With this reference the Point within a Circle was an emblem of great importance amongst the British Druids. Their temples were circular, many of them with a single stone erected in the centre; their solemn processions were all arranged in the same form; their weapons of war—the circular shield with a central boss, the spear with a hollow globe at its end, &c.—all partaking of this general principle; and without a circle it was thought impossible to obtain the favour of the gods. The rites of divination could not be securely and successfully performed unless the operator were protected within the consecrated periphery of a magical circle. The plant vervain was supposed to possess the virtue of preventing the effects of fascination, if gathered ritually with an iron instrument, at the rising of the dog-star, accompanied with the essential ceremony of *describing a circle on the*

¹³ Jambl. vit. Pyth. c. xxviii.—Macro. in Somn. Scip. l. 6.—Porph. vit. Pyth. p. 32.—Plut. Plac. Phil. l. i.—Nicom. Arith. p. 7.—Diog. Laert. vit. Pyth. &c. &c.

¹⁴ Cicero de nat. deor. l.

¹⁵ Plut. Simplic.

¹⁶ Stob. Phys.—Aristot. de Caelo l. ii.

¹⁷ Serv. Georg. 2.

*nerf, the circumference of which shall be equally distant from the plant, before it be taken up.*¹⁸

Specimens of British temples, founded on the principle of a point within a circle, are still in existence to demonstrate the truth of the theory. "There are in Pembrokeshire several *circular* stone monuments,—but the most remarkable is that which is called *Y Gromlech*, in Nevern parish, where are several rude stones pitched on end, in a *circular* order; and *in the midst of the circle, a vast rude stone* placed on several pillars."¹⁹ Near Keswick, in Cumberland, is another specimen of this druidical symbol. On a hill, stands a *circle* of forty blocks of stone placed perpendicularly, of about five feet and a half in height; and one stone *in the centre* of greater altitude. But the most stupendous circular temples were those of Stonehenge and Abury, the latter being three miles in length.²⁰ The body of the temple at Classerniss, in the island of Lewis, sacred to the Sun and the Elements, will also illustrate the principle before us. This curious Celtic temple was constructed on geometrical and astronomical principles, in the form of a Cross and a Circle. The circle consisted of twelve upright stones, in allusion to the solar year, or the twelve signs of the Zodiac; the east, west, and south are marked by three stones each, placed without the circle, in direct lines, pointing to each of those quarters; and towards the north, is a double row of twice nineteen stones, *forming two perpendicular parallel lines*, with a single elevated stone at the entrance. *In the centre of the circle*, stands, high exalted above the rest, the gigantic representative of the Deity, to which the adoration of his worshippers was peculiarly directed.²¹

This extraordinary symbol was also used by the ancient inhabitants of Scandinavia, and had an undoubted reference to *the Hall of Odin*, or the Zodiac; which, the Edda informs us,²² contained *twelve seats disposed in the form of a circle*, for the principal gods, besides an elevated throne *in the centre* for Odin, as the representative of the Great Father. One important purpose to which the circular

¹⁸ Borl. Ant. Corn. p. 91, from Pliny.

¹⁹ Gibson's Camd. Col. 635.

²⁰ Stukeley's Letter to Gale.

²¹ Olaus Magnus, apud Borl. Ant. of Corn. p. 193.—Toland. Druids, vol. i. p. 90.

²² Fab. vii.

monuments of this people were appropriated, was, the election of the Gothic sovereign chieftains. They were usually composed of twelve unhewn stones, placed on end in a *circular form*, with one taller and more massive than the rest, pitched in the *centre* as a seat or throne for the object of their choice. The upper surface of these stones was usually flat and broad; for it was from thence that the Drottes or Priests harangued the people, congregated around the inclosure, on the comparative merits of the respective candidates for this exalted office. The suffrages being taken, the fortunate chieftain was elevated on high, and publicly exhibited to the view of his assembled subjects. This was the probable origin of our custom of chairing newly elected Members of Parliament. Three of these rude monuments remain to this day; one near Lunden in Scania; another at Lethra in Zealand; and a third near Virburg in Jutland.²²

It is remarkable that in all the ancient systems of mythology, the Great Father, or the male generative principle was uniformly symbolized by a Point within a Circle. This emblem was placed by the Scandinavian priests and poets on the central summit of a Rainbow, which was fabled to be a bridge leading from earth to heaven; the emblem, therefore, represented Valhall, or the supernal palace of the chief celestial deity. It is said in the Edda,²³ that this bridge "is all on fire; for the giants of the mountains would climb up to heaven by it, if it were easy for every one to walk over it." The palace thus elevated was no other than the celestial system, illuminated by a central Sun, whose representative on earth was Thor, a god depicted by Verstegan²⁴ with a crowned head placed in the centre of twelve bright stars, expressive of the Sun's annual course through the Zodiacal Signs.

But, however this emblem might have a general reference to the Deity or his temples, in the later ages of idolatry it bore a more immediate relation to the generative principle of nature, symbolized by the union of the sexes. I am ashamed to stain my page with the discussion which this part of my subject necessarily

²² Vid. Mall. North. Ant. vol. i. c. 8.

²³ Rest. of Dec. Int. p. 74.

²⁴ Fab. viii.

introduces; but it cannot be wholly avoided, as the point within a circle, with an unequivocal allusion to the Phallic worship, was the principal object of devotion with every people in the world. In India, the adytum, or most holy place in the temples of the deity, always contained the Linga or Phallus, which had a prominent situation assigned to it, amongst the innumerable emblems with which the walls were covered.²⁵ In Egypt, the same practice was observed.²⁷ Belzoni says of the temple at Tentyra: "The shafts of the columns are covered with hieroglyphics and figures, in the front and lateral walls. On all the walls, columns, ceilings, or architraves, there is nowhere a space of two feet that is not covered with some figures of human beings, animals, plants, emblems of agriculture, or of religious ceremony."²⁸ Amongst these, the Phallus is a conspicuous emblem. The places of initiation in Chaldea were precisely of the same nature. Ezekiel thus describes them: "The Spirit of God brought me to the door of the court, and when I looked, behold, *a hole in the wall*. Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall; and when I had digged in the wall, behold, a door. And he said unto me, go in, and behold *the wicked abominations that they do here*. So I went in and saw; and behold, every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and *all the idols of the house of Israel*, portrayed upon the wall round about."²⁹ In Greece, the Phallus was an universal amulet. It was thought to prevent every species of calamity; and was, accordingly, hung at the doors of houses, offices, and workshops. It was visible in every situation, and was even suspended from the necks of children, to preserve them from the effects of fascination.³⁰ "The same indecencies," says Faber, "were practised in the rites of the Cabiric Ceres, as in those of Bacchus, Osiris, and Maha-Deva. Her deluded votaries vied with each other in a studied obscenity of language, and her nocturnal orgies were contaminated with the grossest lasciviousness."³¹ And Diodorus the Sicilian³² says that such language was used under the impression that it was

²⁵ Maur. Ind. Ant. vol. ii. p. 245.

²⁶ Belz. Researches in Egypt, p. 34.

²⁷ Varro. l. vi.

²⁸ Fab. Mys. Cab. vol. ii. p. 93.

²⁹ Diod. Sic. l. i. c. 6.

³⁰ Ezekiel viii. 7—10.

³¹ Bibl. l. v. c. 1.

pleasing and acceptable to the goddess.³² Even the Israelites themselves were not entirely free from the contamination of such abominable practices; for the Linga of the Hindus, the Phallus and the Priapus of the Greeks and Romans, and the Baal-Peor of the idolatrous Israelites, was one and the same monstrous emblem, which was equally represented by *a point within a circle*. Jerom says,³⁴ that the idols, worshipped by the latter, were most of them dedicated to Baal-Peor, who was portrayed in a gross and indecent attitude. Denique interpretantur, Beelphegor idolum tentiginis, habens in ore, id est, summitate pellem, ut turpitudinem membri virilis ostenderet. This deity was chiefly honoured by female votaries. The good King Asa saw and lamented the wide-spreading abomination, which was even practised under the regal sanction; for his mother, Maacha, had, herself, actually erected an altar to this unnatural divinity.³⁵ This worship was the last and lowest stage of human debasement, and evinces the strict propriety of those scripture phrases which refer to the universal depravity of mankind when given up to the defilements of idolatry.³⁶

Mr. Maurice thinks this disgraceful emblem was derived from Egypt; for Diodorus³⁷ deduces its origin from the search instituted by Isis for the body of her husband, which had been divided by Typhon into fourteen parts, and distributed over the face of the whole earth. For a long time the disconsolate widow could not succeed in finding the genitals of her dismembered husband, which had been committed to the waters of the Nile by his murderer. Being at length discovered, they were buried with great solemnity, and a commemorative festival was instituted, in which long poles, with figures of this emblem attached to the summit, were carried about in procession,

³² It may be here remarked, as creditable to the ancient Druids, that obscene and improper language was disallowed in their mysteries. The candidates were forever disgraced if they "uttered one word of unseemly import." Song of Hywell, in the W. Archæiol. translated by Mr. Davies, Druids, p. 285.

³⁴ In Osee. c. ix.

³⁵ 1 Kings xv. 13.

³⁶ Vid. Leviticus xviii. xix. and xx.—Deuteronomy xii. 31.—Patrick on 1 Kings xiv. 24.—Romans i. 18, ad fin. &c.

³⁷ l. i. c. 2.

and a legend to the same purpose was recited during the initiations.²³

Captain Wilford²⁴ gives another account of its origin. This gentleman says, it was believed in India that, at the general deluge, everything was involved in the common destruction, except the *male* and *female* principles, or organs of generation, which were destined to produce a new race, and to re-people the earth when the waters had subsided from its surface. The female principle, symbolized by *the Moon*, assumed the form of a *lunette* or crescent; while the male principle, symbolized by *the Sun*, assuming the form of the *Linga*, placed himself erect in the centre of the lunette, like the mast of the Ship. The two principles, *in this united form*, floated on the surface of the waters during the period of their prevalence on the earth, and thus became the progenitors of a new race of men. Hence they were received as objects of adoration, under the imposing names of the Great Father and Mother of mankind; and the acknowledged symbol of this mysterious union was, *a Point within a Circle*.

The true origin of this infamous worship may, perhaps, be more correctly derived from the sin of Ham, who discovered and exposed his father's nakedness; and the use of the degrading symbol might proceed from the curse inflicted on his posterity, who were thus reduced below the level of their species.

Such were the absurd and dangerous systems, founded, however, in truth, which deformed the religion of heathen nations, and degraded celestial reason to a level with brutal instinct. To the true Mason, on the contrary, this emblem points out the most useful and invaluable lessons; and while he keeps his wishes and hopes bounded by the rules and ordinances of the Sacred Code, he may be assured that his character will be venerated amongst men, and the fragrance of his virtue will ascend to the throne of his Father who is in heaven, like an evening sacrifice. And when the shades of age and imbecility shall have damped those energies which were once employed in the ardour of active virtue, his declin-

²³ Psellus, ap. Taylor's Dissert. in Pamphleteer, vol. viii.

²⁴ On Mount Cauc. Asiat. Res. vol. vi.

ing strength shall be cheered by the *retrospect* of what his benevolence effected while health and vigour remained, and by the *prospect* of the bright reward which lies before him; and while he considers this life but as the very beginning of his existence, he looks forward to that smiling world he is about to enter, and anticipates, with inexpressible gratification, the cheering welcome he will receive from saints and angels, and the spirits of just men made perfect.

If you would enjoy such happy anticipations when advanced in years, and your bosom is becoming dead to the fascinations of life, you must circumscribe your thoughts and actions by the instruction of this significant emblem. Even your reputation amongst mankind is principally dependent on the rectitude of your moral conduct. If you wish for the commendation of the wise and good, and, what is still of greater importance, the favourable testimony of your conscience, you must be honest and true, faithful and sincere, and practise all the virtues enjoined equally by Masonry and Christianity. You must keep within the compass, and act upon the square with all mankind; for your Masonry is but a dead letter if you do not habitually perform its reiterated injunctions. You may boast of its beauties (and you have just reason to do so); you may attend its lectures; you may be an enthusiast in its forms and ceremonies; but, unless you reduce it to practice, unless its incitements be brought to bear upon your moral conduct, you can enjoy no advantage over those who are still in darkness, and the benefits of Masonry have been extended to you in vain. Circumscribe your actions, then, within the boundary line of your duty to God and man, and convince the world that the System of Masonry is something more than a name.

LECTURE X.

ON THE MASONIC APRON

"We know thee by thy Apron white,
An architect to be;
We know thee by thy trowel bright,
Well skill'd in Masonry."

Solomon's Temple, an Oratorio.

THE chief business of Masonry is to direct and guide the judgment to the practice of virtue; for, it is chiefly by being able to distinguish between right and wrong, that depravity is avoided, and purity of mind cherished and ensured. The understanding is the parent of virtue; and by gradually nurturing the genius and improving the intellect, the brightest fruits of a good life may be reasonably anticipated; for, though worldly wisdom may exist in the absence of virtue, the instances are of very rare occurrence where virtue is found in a heart occupied by selfish prejudices, and contracted by sloth and habitual indolence.

In advancing through the different degrees of Masonry, your stock of information is progressively increased, and the practice of virtue is enforced by a reference to the symbols in which masonic knowledge lies imbedded. With this illustration in view, a primary ceremony of the First Degree is, the investiture of *the Apron*, an unequivocal symbol, which accompanies every step of our progress. And, lest any misunderstanding should give an improper bias to the mind respecting its moral application, the candidate is told that it is an emblem of innocence, of high antiquity and unequalled honour.

The great design of the Apron is to point out a figurative division of the human body into two distinct parts; separating the noble portion which contains the head and

the heart, as the seat of reason and the affections, from the more base and corporeal parts, which are merely intended to perform the carnal functions of nature; and while the spiritual man stands erect and open to the view, the natural man is veiled in obscurity, that no impediment may interrupt the speculative avocations and pursuits of Masonry. The Freemason, thus clothed, is a striking emblem of truth, innocence, and integrity; for the parts only which are the conservators of these virtues are supposed to be in operation, while exploring the hidden mysteries of the science, in the tiled recesses of the Lodge.

Hence the Apron or Girdle, in ancient times, was an universally received emblem of Truth and Passive Duty. The Israelites, when preparing to effect their escape from Egyptian captivity, were enjoined to eat the Passover with *their loins girded*.¹ Job is commanded to gird up his loins like a man,² when the Almighty is about to reward his patience and constancy. At the consecration of Aaron, he is invested with this symbolical article of apparel.³ And the prophets, on all occasions, before they performed any remarkable act of duty, carefully complied with this important ceremony.⁴ When Samuel was received into the ministry, though but a child, he was girded with a linen ephod.⁵ David, in the height of his exultation on the recovery of the Ark, danced before it, invested with the same garment.⁶ Elijah the Tishbite and John the Baptist were both girded with an Apron of (white) leather.⁷ It was said of Jesus Christ, that his Girdle should represent equally Righteousness and Fidelity.⁸ And in conformity with these authorities his principal disciples exhorted the Christian converts to *gird up the loins of their mind*, to be sober, and *hope to the end*;⁹ and to stand firm in the faith, having their loins girt about with *Truth*.¹⁰

Amongst the primitive Masons, this badge received a characteristic distinction from its peculiar colour and material; and was, indeed, an unequivocal mark of supe-

¹ Exodus xii. 11.

² xxxviii. 3—xl. 7.

³ Leviticus viii. 7.

⁴ 2 Kings iv. 29—ix. 1.—Jeremiah i. 17.

⁵ 1 Samuel ii. 18.

⁶ 2 Samuel vi. 14.

⁷ 2 Kings i. 8.—Matt. iii. 4.

⁸ Isaiah xi. 5.

⁹ 1 Peter i. 13.

¹⁰ Ephesians vi. 14.

rior dignity, The investiture of the Apron formed an essential part of the ceremony of initiation, and was attended with rites equally significant and impressive. With the Essenian Masons, it was accomplished by a process bearing a similar tendency, and accompanied by illustrations not less imposing and satisfactory to the newly initiated enquirer. He was clothed in a long WHITE robe, which reached to the ground, bordered with a fringe of blue ribbon¹¹ to incite personal holiness, and fastened tightly around the waist with a girdle or zone, to separate *the heart* from the lower and more impure parts of the body. With *feet bare* and head uncovered, he was considered a personification of modesty, humility, and the fear of God.

It was the firm opinion of the Essenes, that internal purity and rectitude of conduct were most strikingly evinced by a person's outward appearance. This belief was probably derived from that famous precept of King Solomon, who had constantly the same emblematical reference on his lips: "*Let thy garments be always WHITE.*"¹² At his investiture, the candidate was exhorted to the practice of moral virtue from the incentive, not merely of happiness in this world, but of an expected recompense in a future state. This exhortation, enforced by the resistless efficacy of *good example*, produced, in the initiated, a practical righteousness, which was "worthy of admiration above all others that pretended to virtue; for they were, in their manners and course of life, the very best of men."¹³ Their chief employment was to learn to rule and govern their passions, to keep a tongue of good report, and to practise secrecy united with universal charity and benevolence. Hence their deviations from moral rectitude were not frequent. But if an instance did occur, in which the purity of the White Garment was sullied by intemperance or excess, the offender was formally excluded from all social intercourse with his former brethren, and declared unworthy of the Robe which he had disgraced by violated vows and shameless profligacy. This exclusion was considered a punishment of such a dreadful nature, that Josephus says it was commonly followed by a lamentable death.¹⁴

¹¹ Numbers xv. 38, 39.

¹² Jos. Ant. l. xviii. c. 2.

¹³ Ecclesiastes ix. 8.

¹⁴ Jos. de bel. Jud. l. ii. c. 1.

Thus, also, in the institutions of heathen nations, the aspirant was honoured with a similar investiture; and shared in all the benefits and privileges which were accessible to the wearer of this widely-celebrated badge of innocence. The garments of initiation were uniformly *White*, and they bore a common reference to innocence of conduct and purity of heart. When a candidate was initiated into the ancient mysteries, he was esteemed *regenerate*; for these institutions were the sole vehicles of regeneration amongst idolaters; and he was invested with a *White Garment and Apron*, as a symbol of his newly attained purity. White victims were offered in sacrifice to the gods; for the heathens were of opinion that they could do nothing more agreeable to the Supreme Being than to serve him in *White*. But, as for the infernal deities, they imagined them to be wicked to the last degree, and to take pleasure in the misfortunes of mankind; and, as they lived in everlasting darkness, they must, doubtless, be of a sad and gloomy complexion; so they paid them such adoration as they imagined suitable to their tempers; and, for that purpose, clothed themselves in *BLACK*.¹⁵

Amongst the Greeks, the garment of initiation was *White*, because, says Cicero, white is a colour most acceptable to the gods. This Robe was accounted sacred, and a never-failing source of protection in every emergency. As an invaluable relic, it was used by the fortunate possessor until resolved to rags; and when no longer fit for use, his children were invested with the tattered remnants, as undoubted preservatives against the malign effects of all diseases to which they were by nature exposed.¹⁶

In Persia, the investiture was exceedingly splendid, and succeeded to the communication of *Light*. The candidate, after having entered into the usual engagements for keeping secret the mysteries of Mithras, was ceremonially invested with the insignia of the Order—the *Girdle*, on which were depicted the Twelve Signs of the Zodiac, with a golden *Leo* in the centre; the *Tiara*, or lofty crown,¹⁷ the *White Apron*, and the *Purple Tunic*. The latter being thickly studded with stars of burnished gold,

¹⁵ Dissert. on Rel. Worship, p. 6.

¹⁶ Varro. l. vi.

¹⁷ Vid. Ezekiel xxiii. 15.

and flowing loosely from his shoulders, gave a splendid appearance to the initiated, and conferred an unequivocal mark of the distinction which he had just attained. He was now passed through the sacred *petræ* as a general purgation from all his former defilements, and installed by proclamation, a *Lion of Mithras*. A sort of baptism was administered to him, which referred to that universal lustration by which the world was washed from its pollutions at the Deluge; and was consequently expressive of his newly acquired purity, symbolised by the renovated earth emerging from the transparent bosom of the purifying wave.¹⁸ A Crosier or Pastoral Staff was given, and a Crown presented to him on the point of a sword, bearing this inscription, *Mithras is my Crown*. And as a concluding ceremony, he was invested with the sacred Cross, which being a symbol of the Ark, was "*a badge of innocence on the one hand, and of life on the other.*"¹⁹

In Hindustan, the aspirant, with similar ceremonies, was solemnly invested with the consecrated Sash or Girdle, which, being inserted over his left shoulder, descended on the right side, and hung as low as the extremity of the fingers could reach. This Girdle he was directed to wear next his skin. It consisted of a cord composed of *three times three* threads twisted together, and fastened at the end with a knot. It was manufactured with many mysterious ceremonies, and said to possess the power of preserving the wearer from personal danger. The Arch Brahmin, with solemn dignity, then presented the candidate with the consecrated Chaplet, endowed with the virtue of neutralizing the evil machinations of malignant *dæmons*. This charmed wreath was composed of magical herbs, particularly the *cusa* and *darbbha*, gathered under some fortunate aspect of the planets. It possessed also a most wonderful sanative power; and was an antidote against the poison of serpents. He was also invested with the *Koustike-Men*, which was a magical Jewel, to be worn on the breast, streaming with *rays of Light in the midst of darkness*, and endowed with the secret properties of averting calamities. And as a last, invaluable present,

¹⁸ Vid. 1 Peter iii. 20, 21.

¹⁹ Faber's *Mys. Cab.*—Hyde de rel. vet. Pers.—Bryant's *Anal.*—Faber's *Pag. Idol.*—Dow's *Hind.*—Desatir. &c.

a charmed label was firmly bound on his left arm, in which the most powerful talismanic words were inscribed. This amulet was believed to endow the fortunate possessor with wisdom, strength, beauty, health, and riches; and from its influence, every private suggestion of the heart was gratified, by the immediate agency of the god to whom it was consecrated.²⁰

Proceeding in our course still farther to the East, we find the Japanese using rites and ceremonies corresponding essentially with those already specified. The initiations were performed with the utmost secrecy. All probationers were carefully excluded, though their *unanimous* consent was necessary before the ceremonies could legally commence. The candidate was then strictly examined; his bodily purity was rigidly investigated; and his mental perfections ascertained by a philosophical scrutiny. If approved, he was clothed in the Garments of ceremony, which consisted of a loose tunic and *White Apron* bound round the loins with a zone or girdle, and initiated ceremonially into the two first degrees. When pronounced competent to receive the last and highest dignity of the Order, it was conferred with solemn pomp, and concluded by a public festival.²¹

In the extreme West, we are at no loss to find these rites existing in their full vigour. The mysteries of Scandinavia were exclusively of a military cast, and, therefore, we find a *shield* substituted for the apron; but its colour and emblematical reference were the same with the civil decoration of other more peaceable nations. Immediately after the *obligation*, which was sealed by drinking mead out of a human skull, the candidate was invested with a sword and *shield*. This piece of defensive armour was *White*, and termed "the shield of expectation." A specific period was assigned for his probation; and if he failed to distinguish himself in battle before the expiration of his noviciate, the phrase *Niding* was applied to him, equivalent to "a good-for-nothing fellow;"²² and he was studiously shunned by all his former associates.

²⁰ *Asiat. Res.*—Sir W. Jones's Works.—Maurice's *Ind. Ant.*—Faber's *Pag. Idol. and Myst. Cab.*—Bryant's *Anal.*—Moor's *Hind. Panth.*

²¹ *Kempfer's Japan.*—*Universe Displayed*.

²² *Mal. North. Ant.* vol. i. p. 218.

This, however, did not often happen. When he had performed any distinguished martial achievement, he was permitted to have a design painted or engraven on his shield, as a public testimony of his prowess; and was solemnly invested with the insignia of the Order, declared equal to the toil of combat, and left by his parents to the independent gratification of hunting and providing for his own subsistence.²²

And lastly, in our own country, the Druids were not behind other nations in the use of emblematical garments, which were of different colours appropriately adapted to the nature of each Degree. In the first degree, the aspirant was clad in a Robe, striped alternately with the three sacred colours of Druidism, white, sky-blue, and green. White was the symbol of *Light*; Blue, of *Truth*; and Green, of *Hope*; all highly figurative of the expected attainments which the eager novice anxiously anticipated. When the rites of initiation into this degree were completed, the striped robe was exchanged for a vestment of *Green*. In the second degree he was clothed in *Blue*; and having fearlessly surmounted all the difficulties and actual dangers of the third, or degree of perfection, the aspirant was received triumphantly on May-day, by the Archdruid and his companions, who invested him with a red tiara, and a flowing robe of the purest *White*, ornamented with amulets and gems of gold, as badges of the highest order that could be conferred;²³ for none were admitted to the honour of this clothing, but such as were deemed *absolutely cleansed from all impurities* both of body and mind, which could only be effected by the process of initiation.²⁴

Such, in all nations, has been the importance attached to investiture, as a significant completion of the formula of initiation. To detail the ceremonies in use amongst us, would be equally presumptuous and unnecessary. I re-

²² Mallet's North. Ant.—The Eddas of Snorro and Saemund.—Runic Odes, &c.

²³ These ornaments consisted of chains of gold and amber beads, as magical amulets; and many little gold, amber, and ivory trinkets, each possessing some mystical property, or some protecting influence, which conveyed a sacred character to the wearer, that rendered his person inviolate.

²⁴ Owen's Dict.—Davies's Druids.—Borlase's Cornwall.—Maurice's Ind. Ant. vol. vi.

turn, therefore, to the Masonic Apron itself, and shall endeavour to illustrate its several properties, by considering their symbolical application.

The Apron is made of a *Lamb's Skin*; its colour, *White*. These are understood amongst us as joint emblems of *Innocence*; by which we are properly and constantly reminded, that while clothed in that distinguishing badge, our conduct should be uniformly marked by the corresponding duties of innocence and integrity. The lamb was always esteemed an emblem of the purest innocence; and hence the Redeemer of mankind received the significant appellation of "the Lamb of God," because he was immaculate, and without spot or blemish.²⁸ And the colour, *White*,²⁹ as an unequivocal symbol of Light and Purity, has been honoured and venerated in all ages, by every nation and every people since the creation of light out of darkness. Even the primitive Christians adopted a custom so universally prevalent, so consonant with reason, sanctioned by the usage of all antiquity, and authorized by the solemn ordinances of a religion which had been instituted by the Deity himself; for not only did the Jewish Prophets symbolize purity³⁰ and impeccability³¹ by this colour; but the spotless Author of our religion is said to have been clad in raiment *White as Light* at his transfiguration,³² and *White as snow* after his resurrection.³³ And the angelic messenger who appeared to the holy women at the sepulchre, was invested with a garment of the same colour.³⁴ Many years after this, the Divinity condescended to promise that every Christian, who should

²⁸ John i. 29.—1 Peter i. 19.

²⁹ A *white* robe, emblematic of truth and holiness, was the distinguishing dress of a Druid. The exterior ceremonies of a system must appear to strangers as the most prominent part of it; thus ancient authors, occasionally touching on bardism, have chiefly recognized the Druid observing some of his most superficial trappings, and now and then some faint glimmerings of the groundwork of his principles. But the Bardic system is attested to have kept extremely clear from superstition; and what little it did acquire, must have adhered wholly to the Druidic character; for he being the residentiary pastor amongst the people, would, from interest and policy, endeavour to gain influence amongst those under his care; but he must have exerted much caution, as the whole of his principles were universally diffused in the Gorseddau.—*Owen's Dict. v. Derwyz.*

³⁰ Daniel xi. 35.—xii. 10.

³¹ Isaiah i. 18.

³² Matthew xvii. 2.

³³ Matthew xxviii. 3.

³⁴ Mark xvi. 6.

overcome the temptations of the world, should be rewarded with a *WHITE STONE*,³³ as an undeniable passport into the paradise of God. In a region blest with everlasting perfection, this colour receives its final and most exalted mark of distinction. The glorified inheritors of those heavenly mansions, after being washed and *purified* in the blood of the *LAMB*,³⁴ shall be clothed in *White Raiment*,³⁵ ride on *White horses*,³⁶ and be seated on *White thrones*,³⁷ for ever and ever.

Supported and encouraged by these animating authorities, the early followers of Jesus Christ invested the catechumens with a *White Robe*, like that worn by the heavenly vision which encouraged Judas Maccabeus to purge his country of its impurities,³⁸ accompanied by this solemn charge: "Receive the *White* and undefiled garment, and produce it without spot before the tribunal of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you may obtain eternal life."³⁹ In like manner Freemasons, when they invest a candidate with this distinguishing badge of their profession, tell him that it is the most exalted dignity that can be conferred; and exhort him not to disgrace it by actions which may reflect discredit on the Order into which he has had the honour to be admitted.

The Masonic Apron is said to be more ancient than the badge of any other honourable institution. It was used before the Greeks or Romans had a name. The Argonautic expedition is now generally believed to be only a figurative account of the Deluge; and the Apron is unquestionably more ancient than that event; it was, therefore, worn before the establishment of the idolatrous mysteries. We are certain, from undeniable authority, that the Apron was the first species of clothing with which mankind were acquainted, and was adopted before the expulsion of our great progenitors from the garden of Eden. When they had violated the original compact, their eyes were opened to a sense of guilt and shame, and they saw that they were naked. Decency suggested the necessary expedient of covering themselves with Aprons.⁴⁰

The Apron worn by the Levitical Priesthood was com-

³³ Revelations ii. 17.

³⁴ Ibid. vii. 14.

³⁵ Ibid. iii. 5.—vi. 11.

³⁶ Ibid. xix. 14.

³⁷ Ibid. iii. 21 compared with xx. 11.

³⁸ 2 Maccabees xi. 8.

³⁹ Star in the East, p. 72.

⁴⁰ Genesis iii. 7.

posed of the three masonic colours, blue, purple, and crimson.⁴¹ And all the ancient statues of the heathen gods, which have been discovered in Egypt or Greece, Persia, Hindustan, or America, are uniformly decorated with superb Aprons.⁴² Hence is deduced the antiquity of this article of apparel.

It is further declared to be "more honourable, &c." The Apron appears to have been, in ancient times, an honorary badge of distinction. In the Jewish economy, none but the superior orders of the priesthood were permitted to adorn themselves with ornamental Girdles, which were made of blue, purple, and crimson, decorated with gold upon a ground of fine white linen;⁴³ while the inferior priest wore only plain white. The Indian, the Persian, the Jewish, the Ethiopian, and the Egyptian Aprons, though equally superb, all bore a character distinct from each other. Some were plain white, others striped with blue, purple, and crimson; some were of wrought gold, others adorned and decorated with superb tassels and fringes.⁴⁴ In a word, though the *principal honour* of the Apron may consist in its reference to innocence of conduct and purity of heart, yet it certainly appears, through all ages, to have been a most exalted badge of distinction. In primitive times it was rather an ecclesiastical than a civil decoration, although, in some cases, the Apron was elevated to great superiority as a national trophy. The Royal Standard of Persia, (Durufsh-e-Kawanee,) was originally an *Apron* in form and dimensions.⁴⁵ At this day it is connected with ecclesiastical honours; for the chief dignitaries of the Christian Church, wherever a legitimate establishment, with the necessary degrees of rank and subordination, is formed, are invested with Aprons, as a peculiar badge of distinction; which is a collateral proof of the fact, that Masonry was originally incorporated with the various systems of divine worship used by every people in the ancient world. Masonry retains the symbol or shadow, it cannot have renounced the reality or substance.

⁴¹ Exodus xxxix. 1.

⁴² Vid. the Plates to Belzoni's Operations and Discoveries in Egypt.—Humboldt's Researches in America, vol. i. p. 133, &c.

⁴³ Exodus xxviii. 8.

⁴⁴ Vid. Belzoni, ut supra.

⁴⁵ Malcolm's Hist. Per. vol. i. p. 174.

To you, Brethren, who are clothed in this exalted badge, I need not recommend a systematic adherence to the virtues which it represents. At your initiation, you were taught that innocence of conduct and purity of heart were expected to be your peculiar characteristics from the moment of your investiture with the Apron. Is it necessary for me to add that Masonry expects from you an obedience to her precepts, if you are ambitious to share in her peculiar benefits? If any one of you should fail to become a *perfect Master* in the mysteries of Masonry, (which is the lot of but few,) you still cannot be at a loss to understand the value of her moral precepts; if you cannot fathom her deep and abstruse secrets, you may practise the benevolence and good will, the innocence and purity, which she recommends. It is not expected that every Mason should be perfectly versed in all her occult mysteries, but it is imperiously required that he practise the great and prominent virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice; that he may attain the *reputation* of a good and worthy Mason upon earth, and the *reward* of it in another and a better world. This is the perfection of the system. Your Faith and Hope must be made perfect by Charity, or all your attainments will be nothing. You may speak with the tongues of men and angels, you may have all wisdom and knowledge; but if your Masonry, though founded on Faith and Hope, be not animated by Charity, it is only a worthless skeleton, and adds no brilliancy to your moral reputation.

While your body, then, is girded with the Masonic Apron, let your soul be clothed with innocence; let your thoughts be pure, your desires holy, your wishes sanctified; assured that health and true pleasure depend solely on temperance; and that the privations of abstinence bear no proportion to the pain and misery arising from sloth, voluptuousness, or habitual intoxication.

LECTURE XI.

ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LODGE.

"Order is heaven's first law, and this confest,
Some are, and must be, greater than the rest."

Pope.

In the article of government and discipline, Masonry stands high. We find in the earliest times, that all government was *threefold*; though, until the time of the Jewish dispensation, the high offices of King, Priest, and Prophet, were united in one person. In Masonry, however, a distinction was made much earlier; for, at the flood, Noah, Shem, and Japheth, were the presiding Officers of our Order; and the same disposition has continued unaltered and unimpaired down to the present day.

The Wisdom, the Strength, and the Beauty, of this arrangement may be estimated, by considering that a similar form of government was dictated by the Divinity for the observance of the Jewish and Christian Churches; the former being governed by the High Priest, the Priests, and Levites; and the latter by Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

If we turn to the idolatrous mysteries, we find the same unvarying traces of government, which were, doubtless, derived from the mysteries of Noah, or in other words, from the science of Freemasonry. In the mysteries of Greece, the principal Officers were Three. The chief person was the *Hierophant*, or revealer of holy things; the next in rank and importance was the *Daduchus*, or Torch-Bearer, so named from the custody of the *Great and Sacred Lights*, which were placed under his superintending care; the duty of the third, denominated

Ceryx, was to proclaim, in a public manner, the will and pleasure of the Hierophant. There was also another important personage in these mysteries, who, without any portion of supreme authority, was usually employed about the Altar, and called *Oepiboma*. The three principal Officers were supposed to represent the Sun, the Moon, and Mercury. The inferior Officers, appointed to superintend the less important departments of the mysteries, and to assist the chief governors in the execution of their respective duties, were *four*; and usually denominated *Epimeletes*.¹

The principal directors or superintendents of the *Persian* mysteries were also three in number; the Priest or Archimagus, the Archpresule, and the Presule, because the number *three* was esteemed perfect, and included many extraordinary virtues; and it is said in the reputed Oracles of Zoroaster: "The mind of the Father decreed that all things should be divided into *THREE*."

We have already seen that the same arrangement prevailed in *India*,² the chief Officer being placed in the East to represent Brahma, or the rising Sun; his two colleagues in the West and South, representing Vishnu and Siva, as the setting and meridian Sun. The attendant Mystagogues clad in sacred vestments, having their heads covered, each with a pyramidal cap, emblematical of the spiral flame, or the solar ray, were seated around in respectful silence. Thus disposed in solemn guise, the well-known signal from the holy bell summoned the aspirant into the centre of this august assembly; and the initiation commenced with an anthem to the great God of nature, whether as the Creator, Preserver, or Destroyer.

The three superior orders of men under whose presidency the *Gothic* mysteries were placed, called the *Drottes*, the *Scalds*, and the *Diviners*, were believed to possess many supernatural endowments, which invested the mysteries with a distinguished celebrity, that made every candidate for military fame anxious to participate in their privileges.

The presiding officers in the *Druidical* mysteries were also three, and named *Cadeiriath*, the Principal, stationed

¹ Potter's Arch. Grec. b. ii. c. 20.

² Page 91.

in the East; *Goronwy*, who represented the Moon, occupied a place in the West; and *Fleidwr Flam*, the meridian Sun, stationed in the South. Other subordinate officers were necessary to the due celebration of the mysteries. Amongst these were principally *Synwedydd*, the mystagogue, who assisted the Archdruid in illustration; and *Ys yw wedydd*, a Revealer of Secrets, who communicated to the initiated aspirant the mysterious tokens of the Order. The two great Lights of heaven were of some importance in these rites. The Sun was a symbol of the superior god Hu, because he is the great source of Light, and the Ruler of the day. The mild sovereign of the night typified the supreme goddess Kyd or Ceridwen, in whose sacred cauldron were involved all the mysteries of this complicated superstition. In fact, "*the Cauldron*" was a technical term comprising the entire system, whether considered under the denomination of doctrine or discipline, philosophy, legislation, or morality, of which these mysteries were composed. Hence, *the Sun, the Moon, and Cadeiriaith or the Archdruid*, formed indispensable and constituent parts of Druidism; the two former as patrons, and the latter as the authorized dispenser of the contents of the sacred cauldron.

It may be unnecessary to enumerate any other instances in detail; suffice it to say, that the government of all the mysterious institutions known in the world has been invariably the same.

The government of a Masons' Lodge, in like manner, is vested in *Three Superior Officers*, who are seated in the East, West, and South, to represent the rising, setting, and meridian Sun. They are distinguished by significant Jewels, which are highly emblematical of their respective duties, and depicted by Three Lesser Lights, which symbolize the Sun, the Moon, and the Master; to intimate that as the Sun rules the day and the Moon the night, with undeviating regularity, so ought the Master to rule, with equal precision, that order and harmony may be as visibly displayed in a Masons' Lodge as in the uniform movements of the celestial system. Hence, we find that the Master's authority in the Lodge is despotic as the Sun in the firmament, which was placed there by the Creator, never to deviate from its accustomed course, till the declaration is promulgated, that time shall be no more.

To this purpose, the old Regulations of Masonry provided that "the Rulers and Governors, supreme and subordinate, of the ancient Lodge, *are to be obeyed* in their respective stations by all the Brethren, according to the old charges and regulations, *with all humility, reverence, love, and alacrity.*" And in the same code, directions are given to the Brethren as follows: "You are not to hold private Committees, or separate conversation, *without leave from the master*, nor to talk of any thing impertinently or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any other brother speaking to the Master, nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly, while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn, nor use any unbecoming language on any pretence whatsoever; *but to pay due reverence to your Master, Wardens, and Fellows*, and put them to worship."

Towards the well governing of a Lodge of Masons, I would recommend moderation in the superior Officers, and subordination in the Brethren; for without mutual good-will, equanimity of temper, and reciprocal forbearance, the superstructure will crumble to decay, and the Lodge, sooner or later, be inevitably dissolved. Be scrupulously cautious in the choice of candidates; for the admission of one improper person may bring discredit on Masonry, cause confusion amongst Brethren, introduce disputes and needless controversies into the Lodge, and, finally banish from your Society many worthy and excellent associates. Let none be initiated into Masonry but those who are *literally* "good men and true, free born, and of mature and discreet age, no bondmen, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good report." Let the requisitions of the Grand Lodge on this point be strictly adhered to. Mr. Hutchinson very judiciously says: "The principles which alone should attend a candidate for initiation into our society, are pathetically represented in the fifteenth Psalm."³ I subjoin for your consideration

³ Sp. of Mas. p. 192. Ed. 1775.

PSALM XV.

1 Lord, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle; or who shall rest upon thy holy hill?

2 Even he, that leadeth an uncorrupt life: and doeth the thing which is right, and speaketh the truth from his heart.

3 He that hath used no deceit in his tongue, nor done evil to his neighbour: and hath not slandered his neighbour.

the judicious remarks of Br. Noorthouck on this important subject, as worthy of being written in letters of gold.

"It is to be lamented that the indulgence subjoined to this wholesome injunction (no Lodge shall ever make a Mason without due enquiry into his character) should weaken the regard seriously due to it; for, as no man will build his house upon a bog or a quicksand, a man of suspicious integrity will be found equally unfit to sustain the character of a true Mason: and, if some corresponding regard to worldly circumstances were included, it would operate more for the welfare and credit of the Society. Charity is a leading feature in the Masonic character; we deem ourselves bound to assist a distressed Brother to the utmost of our power; but surely this humane obligation does not extend to receiving men amongst us, whose imprudence and precarious circumstances obviously tend to reduce them to be objects of charity. Nothing is more common than for giddy young men, just entering into life, to join the society with the mere sinister view of extending their connections: such men dissipate their time, money, and attention, in running about from one Lodge to another, where they rather aim to distinguish themselves in the licentious character of jolly companions, than in the more discreet one of steady, good Masons; and finally close their Masonic career by loading the table in the Committee Room with petitions for charity! The number of these applications reduces our benefactions to such scanty portions, that instead of being of effectual service in extricating men from the occasional difficulties of life, they seldom amount to more than the instant supply of pressing necessities, without reaching the cause of those necessities; whereas, were the Brethren more select, fewer distresses would come before them, those which did come would be more deserving of relief, and might obtain it from a more liberal hand.

"Once more; the fraternity of Masons being every where distinguished by their kind reception and friendly

4 He that setteth not by himself, but is lowly in his own eyes; and maketh much of them that fear the Lord.

5 He that sweareth unto his neighbour, and disappointeth him not; though it were to his own hindrance.

6 He that hath not given his money upon usury; nor taken reward against the innocent.

7 Whoso doeth these things shall never fall.

assistance of strange Brethren on journeys, or, on their arrival to settle among them, gives rise to another abuse, teeming with evil effects. A man, on the point of removing to a distant country, recollects that the certificate of being a Mason will be a convenient general letter of recommendation. He, accordingly, gets himself proposed through a second, third, or fourth hand, and must be hurried through all the degrees in one evening, because he is to set off early the next morning. Thus, by trusting to a vague recommendation, a Lodge prostitutes the institution for a paltry fee; vests an utter stranger with a character he knows nothing of, and furnishes him with a credential, empowering him, should he be basely disposed, to abuse the generous confidence of the Brethren wherever he goes; *to the injury of worthy men who may afterwards travel the same road.*"⁴

As a fundamental recommendation, let both Officers and Brethren be, on all occasions, strictly observant of the immutable Rules of Masonry, and the ordinances of the Grand Lodge. Without an uniform attention to discipline, no society can expect to be permanently successful; and discipline can only be supported in all its beauty, and all its efficacy, by pursuing, in an undeviating course, that line of conduct marked out by the wisdom of our superior governors, and laid down, in broad characters, in the Book of Constitutions. Subordination to lawfully constituted powers is the law of nature. It may be traced in every civil institution which divine or human wisdom has established for the common good of man. The primitive patriarch was the legitimate head of his family; and he officiated, by divine command, as king and priest. Every national scheme of government is invigorated with a supreme ruler, either elective or hereditary, to whose authority all the members are necessarily subordinate. In domestic life, children are placed by nature under the control of their parents; the Brethren of the Lodge, in like manner, are under the domination of its Master; who, in his turn, though supreme in his own Lodge, is amenable to the Grand Lodge for every undue and improper exertion of power. The laws and ordinances promulgated by the Grand Lodge, being the source and fountain of our

⁴ North. Const. p. 393; note.

protection, are entitled to the utmost reverence and respect from every denomination of Masons. "A Lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; hence an assembly, or duly organized society of Masons, is called a Lodge; and every brother ought to belong to one, and ought to be subject to its Bye-Laws, and the general regulations. All the tools in working shall be approved by the Grand Lodge, &c."^s

There are many minor points necessary to be observed towards ruling and governing a Lodge of Masons with complete success. The Master and Officers should always be punctual in their attendance, and observe the hour of meeting with scrupulous exactness; for, correct conduct in Officers will invariably produce a corresponding accuracy in the Brethren. I know nothing which tends more to disgust and sour the mind than the unprofitable employment of waiting impatiently for the attendance of the superior Officers, with a probable expectation of being disappointed at last. If there be not an absolute certainty that the Lodge will be opened at the proper hour, it must be expected that the members will visibly relax in point of punctuality, and in the end fall away altogether. If the system is to be kept vigorous and healthy, activity and address, perseverance and energy are required on the part of its principal functionaries; for, if once they allow the body, of which they are the head, to become lax and feeble, decay and dissolution are the inevitable consequences. Let the three superior Officers diligently and conscientiously perform *their* duty, and then there will be little fear of irregularity or defection on the part of the inferior members.

The same policy will dictate the impropriety of exceeding the prescribed time of closing the Lodge. Late hours are always objectionable, but they are more particularly so when applied to Masonry. The institution being founded in secrecy, a natural prejudice arises and is cherished in the bosom of our families, which can be softened and nullified only by early hours and correct conduct in all our Masonic transactions. But how are those suspicious prejudices nourished by an untimely return to our homes, after a meeting, protracted, perhaps,

^s Ancient Charge.

by intemperate discussions, in which hostile and unbrotherly passions have prevailed, wholly dissonant with the benign principles of the order we professedly meet to illustrate and enforce. The usual routine of business may always be performed within the proper limits. And I would recommend to all Masters, never so far to lose sight of the best interests of Masonry, as to suffer any cause to interfere with the judicious regulations enforced in the Bye-Laws respecting the very important duty of closing the Lodge at the prescribed hour. This is of vital consequence to the reputation of the craft; for, as a body of Masons, we ought assiduously to cultivate, by strict regularity and decorum in our proceedings, the commendation of the worthy and the good amongst whom we live. The public have no cognizance of what passes in the tyled recesses of the Lodge, except through the indiscretion of unworthy Brethren; but the hour of departure is most carefully marked; and if it be uniformly protracted beyond a seasonable time of night, the character of Masonry will suffer a depreciation commensurate with the imprudence of the erring Brethren. And this is wholly chargeable on the Master; for it is to him alone that the hour of dismissal is entrusted. If he be weak enough to allow the Brethren a latitude in this point, he betrays the interests committed to his charge, and is unworthy to retain a distinguished office in this ancient and honourable fraternity.

Let the Master be very cautious about expulsions. If a Brother grossly misconduct himself, let him be admonished privately; try every gentle means to convince him of his errors; probe the wound with a delicate hand, and use every mild expedient to work his reform. Perhaps he may save his brother, and give to society a renewed and valuable member. If this fail of its effect, and he remain incorrigible, the Master will grieve to use stronger means; but, rather than the reputation of Masonry should suffer, these must be resorted to; and at the final extremity of expulsion, let him show his Brother, when he is bidding him a last farewell in that character, that it is for the benefit of the order alone, and not from any vindictive motive of private resentment, that the ultimate measure has been determined on, by the deliberate and unanimous sentence of the whole Lodge.

One other caution I would offer against a practice teeming with fatal consequences. Let the Master of a Lodge discourage, on all occasions, that itching propensity which incites a Brother to *make motions* on indifferent or trifling subjects. Any motion, on which the Lodge is divided, must be to a certain extent injurious, amongst so many various habits, views, and propensities, as usually constitute a Lodge of Masons; but there are times and subjects when this is unavoidable, and if circumscribed within the proper limits, the evil effects may be counteracted by policy; but if a Master once gives way to a habit of debate, and members, fond of displaying their rhetorical powers, meet with encouragement from the chair, the growing evil carries ruin in its train; division disunites the Brethren; parties are formed by a systematic canvass to carry improper motions into effect, and distrust are the mildest consequences to be expected; for every division leaves a certain portion of the members discontented; in the warmth of debate, strong and objectionable phrases and reflections may be indiscreetly used, which leave a thorn rankling in the bosom of those at whom they are levelled; and in the end, the *minority* are certain to relax in their attendance, if not to withdraw themselves altogether from an institution where their counsels are rejected and their opinions treated with contempt.

Let not these hints be despised, or deemed useless and impertinent. They are the result of long experience in the art of governing a Lodge, which is a much more difficult task than unskilful Brethren are willing to admit. Something more is necessary to constitute a perfect Master than the mere competency to repeat certain forms of opening, closing, qualifications, and lectures. These, though absolutely essential, are but the technical trappings of a ruler in Masonry. Sterling good sense, accomplished manners, long experience, a perfect knowledge of men and things, calmness and command of temper, prudence and foresight added to a graceful and natural flow of eloquence, are unitedly necessary to form a governor of the Craft; and he who assumes this high and most important office without possessing the greater part of these essentials, is in danger of exposing himself to the animadversion, if not to the ridicule of his Brethren.

I subjoin, by way of Note, a few further observations on the important subject of the above Lecture. The possession and exercise of authority is a matter of honourable and proper ambition in every Brother who really prizes the institution into which he has been initiated, and who wishes to render his Masonry productive of its legitimate fruits, the moral improvement of his mental faculties. It is to be regretted, however, that this ambition, so praiseworthy when exercised within its due bounds, is too frequently indulged, even to an unlimited extent, by Brethren who, though in other respects worthy, do not possess the requisite talent or industry to confer distinction. Or, in other words, the ambition is more frequently for the office, than for the qualification to execute it with credit to themselves, or benefit to the community over which they have been called on to preside. If the superior officers of a Lodge be unacquainted with the principles of the institution, it can scarcely be expected to prosper. Should the Master be ignorant of his work, the Brethren will soon learn to despise his authority. To speak in the technical language of Masonry; if he be unpossessed of the art of drawing designs, how are the Fellow Crafts to execute, or the Apprentices to be instructed? In the discharge of his momentous duties, he is expected to rule and govern his Lodge with the same precision and effect as the sun rules the day, and the moon the night; else how can he be consistently classed with those two grand luminaries? Why is he stationed in the east, but because, as the east is a place of light, it is his duty to enlighten the understanding of his Brethren? And how can he discharge this paramount obligation unless he himself is fully imbued with the true principles of Light? To maintain his authority, the Master of a Lodge must possess talent—moral virtue—and courtesy blended with firmness. He must teach both by precept and example, Faith the most lively, Hope the most pure, Charity the most unfeigned. He must inculcate Temperance unmoved except by the delights of science; Fortitude unshaken alike by prosperity and adversity; Prudence united with inflexible Justice; and he is bound to instruct the Brethren in the development of that mysterious and important fact, that man was not created to promote the selfish purposes of his own interest alone, but to use his best endeavours to advance the welfare of others; and, above all, to elucidate that leading secret of Freemasonry—the absolute necessity of acquiring a practical knowledge of ourselves.

If, then, it be the Master's province to instruct others, he must be conscious that ignorance in himself is totally inexcusable. He cannot enforce on the younger Brethren the necessity of ruling and governing their passions—of keeping a tongue of good report—of practising all the duties of morality and social order—unless he exhibit an example of these virtues in his own person. If he be insincere, his praise of Truth will stand for nothing; if he be not charitable, he cannot consistently recommend the practice of relief; nor if he be factious, can he dilate, with any effect, on the exercise of the most beautiful feature in the Masonic system, Brotherly Love or Charity—that glorious emanation of the Deity, divested of which, Freemasonry would be unworthy of attention. Without these essential qualifications, the Chair will be bereft of its influence; the Master's authority will be disregarded by the Brethren; and disorder and disunion, though delayed, will not be the less certain to ensue.

LECTURE XII.

CONCLUSION OF THE COURSE.

"———VIRTUE thus
Sets forth and magnifies herself, thus feeds
A calm, a beautiful, a silent fire
From the incumbrances of mortal life,
From error—disappointment—nay from guilt,
And sometimes, so relenting Justice wills,
From palpable oppressions of despair."

Wordsworth.

HAVING now arrived at the conclusion of my labours, I flatter myself that the results of the whole investigation will be apparent and intelligible. The antiquity of Freemasonry may be deduced from the similarity of our rites to those of the mysteries; and we can only account for the resemblance which the ceremonies and doctrines of distant nations bear to each other, by supposing that they were all derived from some great primitive system which was practised when mankind lived together as a single family. It is morally impossible on any other principle, that the same events, perpetuated by the same ceremonies and symbols, and the same secret system of communication, could subsist in nations so widely separated as to preclude all possibility of intercourse between the inhabitants.

But the antiquity of these mysterious institutions falls before the superior claims of Masonry, as the idols of Memphis were precipitated from their pedestals at the appearance of the infant Saviour.¹ The deductions of reason produce a result absolutely asserted in the sacred volume, that all modes of false worship emanated from

¹ Vid. a prophecy of this remarkable event in Isaiah xix. 1.

Shinar, where genuine Masonry was originally practised by the descendants of Noah. The reasons of that variety which diversified the practice of religion amongst different nations may be reduced within a very narrow compass. The apostacy began on these extensive plains, and the seed of every new religion was here scattered. Each ambitious and enterprising individual, whose abilities enabled him to collect a party, would set off with his followers, east, or west, as his inclinations might lead, and, forming a colony at no great distance from the place of departure, would, as its ostensible king and priest, deliver, *ex cathedra*, his own speculative opinions on the subject of religion, which would of course be adopted as the system of the newly planted tribe. When the population of a colony thus formed became too abundant for the settlement, new migrations would take place, moving to a greater distance from Shinar, each family under its respective leader, whose religious tenets would doubtless possess some peculiarity. Thus the sentiments of mankind as they separated more widely from each other, would diverge by insensible degrees from the true mode of worship, until at length great nations would be formed in every part of the world by the union of many small tribes, as policy or conquest might prevail, each practising a religion of its own, which, though differing essentially from the rest of the world, would still retain many characteristic marks which unequivocally point out a common derivation.

The great and important truths which I have collected in these Lectures, necessarily proceeded from a system of theology more ancient, and were derived from a source of greater purity than the mysteries in which they were preserved. In point of fact they could scarcely be obliterated, as they were fundamental principles from which all religious obedience radiated, and naturally refer to the patriarchal mode of worship instituted by God himself, to preserve men from the paths of error in this world, and to produce their eternal salvation in the next. With this pure system of truth our science was coeval, and in these primitive times was usually identified. But human reason was too weak to retain just impressions of the sublime truths revealed by the divinity, when that revelation was either doubted or finally

rejected ; and, therefore, though the visible symbols were retained in every mysterious institution which flourished throughout the heathen world, the true interpretation was entirely lost.

The idolatrous mysteries, then, emanated from that pure fountain of Light, which is now denominated Freemasonry ; because they contain innumerable references to some system more ancient than idolatry itself, which could be nothing but an institution of unequivocal purity attached to the true and only acceptable mode of paying divine worship to the supreme and invisible God.

I rejoice, however, in the hope that I have accomplished a still more useful object than merely proving the antiquity of Freemasonry. I have drawn forth and illustrated some of the moral beauties of our science, which may shed a lustre over it in the estimation of the uninitiated, and also tend to make my Brethren wiser Masons and better men. This has occupied my most anxious attention, and if I have been unsuccessful, the failure must not be attributed to a want of diligence and assiduity in the pursuit to which some portion of my leisure has been, for many years, devoted.

Before I take a final leave, however, I will offer a few brief observations on some of the ceremonies, emblems, and jewels, which have not been comprehended within the general design of these Lectures ; and, by so doing, I hope to furnish an epitome of the science, which, though wholly incomprehensible to the uninitiated, may be useful to the young Mason, while grounding himself in the mysteries of symbolical knowledge.

The institution of Freemasonry is founded on silence, and the mind is instructed and improved by meditating on a variety of visible objects. They are all invested with a moral reference, and read him a lecture by which he is made a wiser, and, consequently, a better man.

The true Mason, wherever he may be, finds himself always surrounded by objects which forcibly draw his attention to the science into which he has been initiated. If he survey the heavens—the sun, in his apparent motion, majestically rolling through the expanse—the moon and the planets, performing their accustomed courses with order and regularity—the golden stars, thickly studded in the blue vault of liquid ether—all

are included in his system of Freemasonry, whence he is directed by his speculation on the glorious works of nature up to the Great First Cause, the bountiful Creator of immeasurable space and all that it contains. If he take a view of the productions of nature and art on the face of the planet which we inhabit, the same result follows.

All is Freemasonry—all is replete with the divine principles of the Order. There is not a mountain or valley, a tree, a shrub, or a blade of grass—there is not a magnificent structure of polished marble, rich in the splendid decorations of gorgeous architecture, or a refuse stone rejected from the quarry—there is not an object, animate or inanimate, in universal nature, but it is instinct with the genius of Freemasonry; and the learned Brother may find an instructive masonic lecture in the wing of a moth, as well as in the motions of the august lights of heaven.

As the Deity is the first and most important object of our attention, I shall commence this interesting disquisition with a few observations on the custom of uncovering the feet and bending the knee while offering up devotions to this august and beneficent Being. In the early ages of the world, one important indication of pure worship consisted in *taking off the shoes*, when about to enter a temple dedicated to God. This custom was of very ancient observance, as we may infer from the interview with which Moses was favoured at the burning bush. The heathen nations used the same method of expressing the humility of their devotion. Not only did the wise and judicious Pythagoras command his disciples to worship with bare feet,² as an expressive symbol of humility and contrition of the heart, but even the grosser worship of the Greeks and Romans enjoined the same practice. In public religious processions, the priests walked barefooted; the high-born Roman ladies did not dare to enter the temple of Vesta with covered feet; and, in Greece, the female votaries walked barefooted in the processions of Ceres. The same usage prevailed equally in India, and the islands to the west of Europe; and even the American savages

² Jambl. vit. Pyth. c. xxviii.

thought that uncovering the feet, while in the act of devotion, was a sublime method of paying honour to the Deity. Going barefoot, says Killet,³ was a sign of much sorrow, assumed by David to express his woeful expulsion from his own country, by his rebellious son;⁴ and distressed captives used it in their bondage, in another country.⁵

Allied to this reasonable practice, we find another custom, which appears to have been enforced in ancient times. The devout worshipper was obliged to enter his temple with *the right foot placed first* over the threshold; and Vitruvius, in reference to this ceremony, tells us that the steps which lead to any hallowed fane should be composed of *an odd number*, that the right foot, being used for the first step, might necessarily first enter the building.

Genuflection was used in the infancy of the world, as an act of devout homage to God; for it is, in reality, a just expression of humility and reverence from a created mortal to the Great Author of his existence. Pliny says,⁶ that "in the knees of man there is reposed a certain religious reverence, observed even in all the nations of the world. For humble suppliants creep and crouch to the knees of their superiors; their knees they touch; to their knees they reach forth their hands; their knees they worship and adore as religiously as the very altars of the gods."

In the system of Christianity, this custom is universally prevalent, in obedience to the repeated injunctions of Christ and his Apostles.⁷ Here it is described as a proper and approved act of devotion; and one of the Fathers of the Church has conferred a still higher character upon it. He says: "when we bow the knee, it represents our fall in Adam; and when we rise, having received the benefit of prayer addressed to the throne of grace, it is a type of our restoration in Christ by the grace of God, through whom we are able to lift up our hearts to heaven." The candidate for Masonry is directed to bend his knee, with a similar reference.

³ Trien. p. 38.

⁴ 2 Samuel xv. 30.

⁵ Isaiah xx. 2, 3, 4.

⁶ Nat. Hist. l. xi. c. 45.

⁷ Luke xxii. 41.—Philippians ii. 10.—Romans xiv. 11.—Ephesians iii. 14.—Acts ix. 40, &c., &c.

He is in a state of intellectual darkness, as far as regards the science into which he is about to receive initiation. His mind, unenlightened with the bright rays of masonic knowledge, bends before the *divine illuminator*, in the humble hope that his understanding may be opened, and his mental faculties improved, by the process of initiation, commenced with a devout supplication to, and a firm reliance on, that Great Being whose favour alone can convey protection and assistance, in every difficulty and danger he may be called on to sustain, as a trial of his patience, fortitude, and zeal.

While thus engaged, he is placed with his face towards the east. For this custom, Masonry affords many substantial reasons. The ancients thought the east peculiarly sacred, because the Sun, the source of light and life, commenced his daily career in that quarter.* The practice may, perhaps, be more correctly deduced from some or all of the following considerations, accounting those points for east and west which are commonly received in that acceptation. The camp of Judea was placed by Moses in the east, as a mark of honorary distinction. The first public temple dedicated to the exclusive service of God, was the Tabernacle of Moses, which was placed due east and west; and in the east our holy religion was first promulgated to mankind. This custom was not peculiar to any nation or people, but was practised throughout the world. The Egyptian and Mexican pyramids were erected according to the four cardinal points; and the idolaters usually built their temples due east and west, that when a sacrifice was offered on the altar, the

* This elucidation, strictly speaking, may be erroneous; for, in reality, the east and west points are but imaginary, and stand on very doubtful ground when compared with the claims of north and south; for the north and south poles are the invariable terms of that axis whereon the heavens move, and are, therefore, incommunicable and fixed points, whereof the one is not apprehensible in the other. But, with the east and west, it is quite otherwise; for the revolution of the orbs being made upon the poles of north and south, all other points about the axis are mutable; and wheresoever therein the east point be determined, by succession of parts in one revolution every point becomes the east. And so, if, where the Sun rises, that point be termed the east, every habitation differing in longitude will have this point also different, inasmuch as the Sun successively rises unto every one. Vid. more of this in Brown's *Vulgar Errors*, b. vi. c. 7.

people might conveniently direct their devotions to the east, and thus adore the rising sun.* Virgil says,

*Illi ad surgentem conversi lumina solem,
Dant fruges manibus salsa.*

- *En. xii. 173.*

Christian churches and Masonic Lodges are built due east and west, and the most holy place is in the east. Tertullian informs us,¹⁰ that the early Christians prayed with their faces turned to the east, in imitation of a like practice observed by St. John the Evangelist.¹¹ The reason assigned for it is, that when placed in this posture, we should reflect on the creation of the world, and the crucifixion of Christ; because the garden of Eden, an emblem of that celestial paradise which is the object of all our hopes and wishes in this world, was placed in the east; and Christ being crucified with his face to the west, it follows, that when we turn to the east, we behold, as it were, the Saviour suspended on the cross, working out the salvation of sinners by the sacrifice of himself. An opinion anciently prevailed, founded, perhaps, on the sixty-eighth Psalm and the thirty-third verse, that the visible glory of Christ was situated in the eastern part of the heavens. The passage, as translated by the Seventy, runs thus: "Sing unto God, who ascendeth above the heaven of heavens *on the east.*" It was, indeed, a generally-received opinion of the early Christians, that God was worshipped towards the east, and Satan renounced towards the west.¹² When consigned to our last retreat, the corpse is laid on the grave due east and west, with its feet to the former quarter, that, at the resurrection, the renovated man may at once behold the bright vision of judgment; for we are certain, from the express declaration of Christ himself, that at the last day he shall appear in the east,¹³ seated on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.¹⁴

Hence we deduce the propriety of the custom which is used in many of our peculiar ceremonies. The candidate in each degree is placed with his face to the east, for

* *Vid. Ezekiel viii. 16.* ¹⁰ *Apologet. c. xvi.* ¹¹ *Prochor. vit. S. Joh. c. v.*

¹² *Hierom. ad. c. vi. Amos.—Damascen. de fid. Orth. 4, 13.—Dion. Areop. de hier. eccles. c. ii. &c., &c.*

¹³ *Matt. xxiv. 27.*

¹⁴ *Ibid. xxiv. 30.*

the purpose of receiving instruction. During the lectures, the Brethren necessarily face the east. Should a Brother desire to address the Lodge, he must still turn towards the east; and, even during our social refreshments, we uniformly observe the same practice. For these united causes, I have been somewhat particular in enumerating a few of those reasons which induced our ancient Brethren to adopt a custom equally rational and consistent with the primitive rites of genuine religion.

It was an ancient custom to use *Circumambulation* during the performance of religious ceremonies. In Greece, while the sacrifice was in the act of consuming, the priests and people walked in procession round the altar thrice, singing the sacred hymn, which was divided into three parts, the Strophe, the Antistrophe, and the Epode. While the first part was chanted, they circumambulated in a direction from east to west, emblematical of the *apparent* motion of the heavenly bodies; at the commencement of the second part, they changed their course, and proceeded from west to east, pointing out their *real* motion; and, during the performance of the Epode, they remained stationary round the altar—a symbol of the *stability* of the earth, waiting for some propitious omen which might announce the divine acceptance of the sacrifice.

In Britain, the devotional exercises of the insular sanctuary were conducted on a similar principle. Ceremonial processions moved round it, regulated by the mystical numbers, and observing the course of the Sun; sometimes moving slowly and with solemn gravity, chanting the sacred hymn to Hu; at others, the devotees advanced with great rapidity, using impassioned gestures, and saluting each other with secret signs. This was termed “the mystical dance of the Druids.”¹⁵ The circular move-

¹⁵ Or the Deasiul. “In the Highlands of Scotland,” says Smith (Gal. Ant. p. 38), “women with child perform the *Deas’iul* thrice round some chapels, to procure an easy delivery. Sick persons do the same round some cairns, to charm back health. The phrase is still more used in conversation than the ceremony is in practice. If the milk or meat which a child swallows, come but a little against the breath, its nurse is immediately alarmed lest it may go *tua’l*, and pronounces the word *deas’iul*, to give it the same direction. On numberless other occasions this word is used in the same manner.

ment was intended to symbolize the motion of the earth, and to give an idea of God's immensity which fills the universe.

The foundation-stone of every magnificent edifice was usually laid in the *north east*, which accounts in a rational manner for the general disposition of a newly initiated candidate when enlightened but uninstructed, he is accounted to be in the most superficial part of Masonry. This stone, to which some portion of secret influence was formerly attributed, is directed in Alet's Ritual to be "solid, angular, of about a foot square, and laid in the *north east*."

Behold these instruments of labour, the Square, the Compasses, and the Twenty-four Inch Rule. When I hold up *the Square*, what virtues are presented to your view! As an appendage to an operative Mason,¹⁶ it is, indeed, used merely to try and adjust all irregular angles, and to assist in bringing rude matter into due form. But as a speculative Mason's jewel, it teaches morality and justice; it shows the beauty of order and sobriety, and displays the advantages arising from a mutual communication of benefits. In a word, we are instructed, by this instrument, to act upon the square with all mankind, by doing to others as, in similar circumstances, we would have them do to us. The obvious use of *the Compasses* is for the formation of plans and designs, from which all noble works of art are completed in their just and elegant proportions. In Masonry, however, they have a reference to something more than this. They admonish us to walk righteously and soberly amongst our Brethren; to avoid every degree of intemperance which may degrade the man into the brute, and to render to every one his due; tribute to whom tribute is due; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. Lastly, the *Twenty-four Inch Rule*, whose apparent use is merely to measure lines and dis-

¹⁶ Our excellent Brother Hutchinson says: "I am induced to believe the name of *Mason* has its derivation from a language, in which it implies some strong indication, or distinction of the nature of the Society; and that it has not any relation to architects. The French word *maison* signifies a family, or particular race of people. It seems as if the name was compounded of *Mao-Savas*, *quero saluum*; and the title of Masonry no more than a corruption of *Maoovavew*, *sum in medio cali*, or *Mafoovooθ*, *signa celestia* (Job xxxviii. 32.), which conjecture is strengthened by our symbols."

tances, amongst Masons, refers more particularly to the twenty-four hours of the day, and points out the necessity of a regular distribution of Time, one portion of which must be applied to labour, another to rest and refreshment, and a third to prayer and meditation. Thus that excellent monarch and Grand Master of Masons, Alfred the Great, made a regular and judicious appropriation of his hours, after he had vanquished all his enemies, and sat in peace on the throne of his hereditary dominions. It is, indeed, of primary consequence to ascertain the progress of time. Time does not appear to move. Look at the hour index of your watch. It stands still; you cannot see the process by which time is divided; and yet hour after hour passes on; the index still moves round, and is as actually advancing as if it were visible to your eye. In like manner the Sun in the firmament measures days, and weeks, and months, and years; and yet, how attentively soever it is observed, you have not the least visible perception of its course. It rises in the east, and you behold it in the purple morn; it attains its meridian in the south, still imperceptibly to the human eye, and you know that half the day is gone. It moves majestically towards the end of its daily course, and when setting in the west, you perceive that you are another day nearer to that event which must ultimately close all your connections with this world, and introduce you to another where the division of time will cease, and an endless eternity be open to your view. Let this consideration be the spur and incentive to virtuous pursuits, that your admission into eternity may be glorious, and full of peace and joy unspeakable.

Contemplate the boundless extent of a Masons' Lodge. High as the heavens, deep as the central abyss, its right hand stretching to the east, and its left to the utmost limits of the west; what can all this signify? It points to Brethren in every clime, and companions diversified with every tint of complexion, from the delicacy of European beauty to the swarthy blackness of the African savage. It shows also the universal character of Masonry, and the unbounded influence of its rules and orders, and points out that comprehensive *benevolence and good-will* which Masons usually display towards their worthy Brethren in distress. It is not, however, by pecuniary

bounty alone that the precept is fulfilled, for this is not in every one's power. Acts of kindness and commiseration may sometimes heal the breaking heart; and these are within the reach of the most indigent of our species. Benevolence and charity must be discriminative to be beneficial; for relief to the common vagrants who daily haunt our doors is charity misapplied, and only adds strength and permanency to vicious habits, which a firm and uniform resistance of their claims might effectually correct, and even induce their return to virtue. The universal benevolence of a Mason, recommended from a consideration of the extent of his Lodge, consists *generally* in unaffected courtesy, and uniform affability and gentleness of manners. These qualities will always convey the mild feeling of brotherly love, and induce relief and charity to every worthy and destitute object within their reach. The pleasing effects of courtesy and kindness can never fail. They will pour balm, and oil, and wine, into the bleeding heart, and leave behind a load of gratitude which can never be obliterated.

I will now call your attention to a Board with a few lines, angles, and perpendiculars designed upon its surface. This is the Tracing Board; and though it may appear rough and of little use, is yet an immoveable jewel, and contains a lesson of inestimable value. This board is for the Master to draw his plans on, for the direction of his workmen; but its mystic reference is to the great charter of our religious privileges, which, in all our open Lodges, is displayed on the Master's Pedestal, with its leaves unfolded, as the visible standard of our Faith, subscribed with the hand of the Divinity, the very ground and pillar of Truth.

You have now before you an unhewn block of marble, rough as when taken from the quarry. This is another immoveable jewel, which points to the infant mind, rough and uncultivated as this stone; and as the marble can alone be brought into a definite and useful form by the skill and judicious management of the expert workman, so the mind can only be trained to the practice of virtue by the sedulous care and assiduous instruction of parents, guardians, and teachers. Thus the ripening man becomes fitted for his station in society, and qualified to act his part with the approbation of his fellow-men. These re-

lections lead us to contemplate this stone in another and a more perfect form. It has been under the chissel of the expert workman, and now assumes the shape of a true die square, polished according to art, which can only be tried by the nice application of the square and compass. The mind of man, after its previous cultivation, and progress through the chequered scenes of good and evil with which this life abounds, is here represented. He has attained a good old age, and his time has been spent in acts of piety and devotion; the blessing of the fatherless is upon him, and he has caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. His soul, therefore, ripened for glory, may be aptly compared to this superb stone, for it can now only be tried by the square of God's holy Word, and the compass of his own conscience.

Cast your eyes downwards and contemplate the pavement on which you tread. It is Mosaic, chequered with black and white, emblematical of good and evil fortune; like the life of man, sometimes favoured by prosperity, sometimes bending before the blasts of adversity; now elevated on the billows of hope, and now plunged in the depths of despair. This is a most merciful dispensation of our All Wise Creator; for a continued course of prosperity would tend to deprive a man of those ideas of dependence on a superior Being which are natural to him in his present state of mortality; and thus forgetting his allegiance, he might advance to atheism, and work for himself a portion of misery and pain. Adversity prevents this degeneracy, and places man in his proper situation, as an inferior and dependent being. But perhaps you will say, that affliction is so galling to the soul, and comes upon us so suddenly, and with such tragical attendants, that its uses can scarcely be pronounced sweet and salutary. You are, however, mistaken. God is the benignant author of unmingled good, and if he brings adversity upon the soul, it is for some beneficial purpose; it serves to correct the exuberance of vice, and to promote the operation of virtue; it reproves the pernicious consequences of perpetual ease and comfort, and prepares the mind for the return of smiling happiness to cheer and relieve mankind while journeying on the road to heaven. Take a retrospective view of your past life, and you will find that, in the article of happiness and misery, the

former has very largely preponderated. If you have been sometimes hungry, you have been more frequently full; if you have been sometimes in want, you have often enjoyed the blessing of plenty; you have had some sickness, but more health; a beloved child may have been snatched from you untimely by the hand of death, but perhaps you have several surviving children who are a comfort to your declining years. Besides, if you look round amongst mankind, you will find great numbers whose afflictions exceed the whole aggregate of yours in vast proportion. Let these considerations induce you to receive with the cheerfulness of gratitude every calamity which may befall you. Prosperity is but a fading flower; and though to-day you have health, and friends, and riches, and honours, to-morrow your friends may prove false, your health may be changed into sickness, and your riches and honours may vanish like a dream. Such is man in every station of life, whether crowned with a royal diadem, or enduring the lot of a scourged slave. But the time will come when all will be on a level; death will destroy all distinctions, and the dust of the rich and poor shall be blended in one indiscriminate mass. The superiority of an after state will be that of virtue. Let us, then, endeavour, while on this side the grave, to copy that bright pattern of every excellence which is set before us in the Gospels; and, as far as we are able, let us act according to the dictates of right reason, and cultivate harmony, maintain charity, and live in unity and brotherly love.

One of the most insignificant objects, in its external appearance, though not, perhaps, the most useless, which has been adopted by our ancient brethren, is *the Rod or Wand*; and I shall conclude this course of lectures with a brief sketch of its history and symbolical application.

The earliest mention of this appendage is traditional. It is said that when our first parents, by transgression, fell from their original state of innocence, and were expelled from Paradise into a world of woe, Adam, bending under the oppression of guilt, supported his weary limbs by taking in his hand a branch of that fatal tree which occasioned his disgrace. The Almighty, foreseeing the miserable consequences of sin, and the necessity of divine interference for counteracting its effects, not only per-

mitted Adam to take with him this rod, but afterwards miraculously preserved it, by natural means, for his own purposes. By Adam it was bequeathed to Methusaleh, the son of Enoch, who, in like manner, left it to Noah, by whom it was preserved in the ark. After the death of Noah, it passed to his grandson Mizraim, who founded the city of Memphis; he deposited it in the celebrated college there, and it remained under the guardianship of the priests for many generations; until the time when Jethro, a tutor of Moses, was consecrated, and sent from this college to be a priest of Midian; and he conveyed away the rod by stealth. He did not, however, profit by it in the slightest degree; for shortly after his arrival in Midian, when walking in his garden, he struck the lower end of the rod deep in the earth; from which situation he was never able to remove it. While wrapt in wonder and astonishment at this extraordinary circumstance, he received a supernatural indication that the rod should remain immoveable until the Deity himself should commission a certain individual to take it away, in whose hands it should be *a symbol of his power and glory*. It happened, therefore, that Moses, when he had slain the tyrannical Egyptian, fled for concealment and safety to Jethro; and as they were walking together in the garden, and employed in earnest conversation on the subject of his flight, by accident Moses laid his hand upon this rod, and without any exertion drew it out of the ground. Jethro immediately acquainted Moses with every circumstance relating to this divine staff; and he, considering it as an assurance of the favour of heaven, immediately took the rod into his own possession, which proved not only a symbol of his authority, but the agent by which all the miracles were performed that preceded and accompanied the great deliverance of the children of Israel from their Egyptian bondage; and its extraordinary powers were brought into requisition at the BURNING BUSH, to convince him of his holy mission, and the certain protection which would be extended to him by the omnipotent I AM. The stupendous miracles which wrought out the emancipation of his brethren, were performed by the agency of this rod.

The imitations effected by Pharaoh's magicians were produced by natural causes only. They were in posses-

sion of a secret to tame serpents and render them innoxious. A little dexterity was, therefore, only necessary to substitute real serpents, and conceal the rods under their long garments. Frogs might be procured in any numbers, for they swarmed throughout the land of Egypt; and the art of changing the colour of different substances was then known in the eastern countries; so that water might be easily tinged with a red colour, to give it the appearance of blood.

Some learned men are of opinion that these rods were actually converted into serpents, and the other two miracles performed by the power of God; that the Egyptians had no reason to think their incantations would produce serpents; but they would try all experiments in order to judge further of the matter; and upon their attempting it, God was pleased in some cases to give an unexpected success to their endeavours in order to serve and carry on his own purposes and designs by it." But the passage does not appear to favour this conjecture; for these serpents are said to be produced by *enchantments*; that is, by certain ceremonies and forms of words muttered between the teeth,¹⁷ after the manner of our modern jugglers; subsequently to which, each magician threw down his serpent before Pharaoh and his court. For it is repugnant to our ideas of God's attributes to suppose that he would lend his assistance to such gross deceptions. Besides, the incapacity of these jugglers would have been better displayed, if no appearance of a miracle had been produced; nor would they have been induced to attempt the performance of a miracle with the vengeance of Amenophis before them, who appears to have possessed little government of his passions, without some certain prospect of success; for, it was a custom of the eastern kings to destroy those magicians who failed to perform a miracle dictated from the throne.¹⁸ But Moses actually knew the real state of the case from his Egyptian education, and therefore his serpent devoured theirs.

The sorcerers, too, in the third plague, confessed that Moses wrought his miracles by the finger of God; which amounts to an acknowledgment that theirs were works of sleight, done by the power of dexterity of man; and

¹⁷ Isaiah viii. 9.

¹⁸ Dan. ii. 13. Herod Olio.

not by any interference on the part of God.¹⁹ St. Jerome says, *signa quæ faciebat Moses imitabantur signa Ægyptiorum, sed non erant in veritate.* And this observation is, doubtless, correct, for the rod of Moses devoured the serpents substituted for the rods of the magicians; and therefore they were real serpents, and not an illusion, as is the opinion of many.

The magicians themselves might consider that Moses and Aaron produced these effects from natural causes like themselves; and therefore boldly opposed sleight against sleight, or miracle against miracle; and hence the king, regarding Moses and Aaron only as expert magicians, refused to comply with their demands. But when their dexterity failed in this effect, they gave up the contest,

¹⁹ The works of art now in common use would, in ancient times, have been referred to the power of magic. Stuffed birds are made to fly through the air with great velocity; wooden images to perform upon several kinds of musical instruments; and to draw landscapes with great correctness and dispatch, by means of an ingenious complication of machinery. Archimedes was esteemed a powerful magician, for he performed works which, though now perfectly understood, were in those ages esteemed supernatural, and beyond the attainment of unassisted human abilities. Archytas the Pythagorean made a wooden dove to fly; and Boetius made brazen serpents to hiss, and birds of brass to sing; and they were hence accounted magicians.

The most inexplicable doubts were, however, entertained by the wisest heathens, about the power of magicians to invoke evil spirits and make use of their agency. Eusebius¹ quotes an epistle from Porphyry to Anebonus the Egyptian, in which he proposes nine doubts on this subject. How can it be reconciled to common sense, says he, that magicians invoke spirits as their superiors, and afterwards command them as inferiors? Why do the spirits refuse to answer the calls of any but men of strict virtue; and yet will lend their assistance to the commission of any wickedness? Why will they not hear the sorcerer unless he abstain from venery; and afterwards inflame him to unnatural lust? Why do they prescribe fasting, and yet delight in the smell of sacrifices? Why do they forbid the magician, during the rites of incantation, to touch any dead body, when some magical ceremonies are performed with parts of a dead body? Why do they endeavour to terrify the spirits with threats, who are represented as not afraid of them? Why do they address the spirits with invocations and prayers like these:—Thou who art engendered from the slime of the earth; thou whose throne is in the waters; thou who canst assume new shapes at pleasure, appear and aid us! when these kind of prayers are little regarded by them? Why do they use barbarous and strange words, as if the spirits understood only the Scythian, or some other language equally barbarous? And as the spirits are immaterial, how can they be tempted by sensible and material things?

¹Euseb. de præp. evan. l. 5. c. 6.

and acknowledged that Moses was an agent in the hands of God.

Before this time, however, the staff was an emblem of rule and authority; for Jacob, when he had received the blessing of royalty for himself and his descendants, was sent into the land of Padanaram with his staff only, as the visible symbol of his high character.²⁰ It was exhibited to his numerous posterity at his death; when, as the patriarch of his race, he blessed the sons of Joseph, who had become the ruler over all the land of Egypt. It was the subject of Balaam's prophecy respecting the regal dignity to be enjoyed by his descendants;²¹ and afterwards referred to as a token of royalty,²² and an agent of national punishment;²³ and the utter destruction of a kingdom is expressed by the metaphor of a broken staff,²⁴ which denoted the annihilation of power, and a state of absolute slavery.

The rod was a symbol of the authority of Moses and Aaron at the deliverance, and the subsequent wanderings of the Israelites, and was denominated the rod of God,²⁵ as displayed in numerous instances,²⁶ but particularly in that remarkable case when the princes of Israel disputed this authority, and it was confirmed by a miracle; for the rods of the twelve tribes being placed in the tabernacle to await a display of the Divine will and pleasure; the rod of Aaron "brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds."²⁷ David uses the same instrument, in a beautiful metaphor, to express the consolations which he derived from the grace of God. "Though

²⁰ Gen. xxxii. 10. ²¹ Ib. xlix. 10. ²² Jer. x. 16. Rev. ii. 27.

²³ Job xxi. 9. Isaiah x. 24, 26. ²⁴ Isaiah xiv. 5.

²⁵ Exod. iv. 20.—xvii. 9. To the same effect the Psalmist says, "thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre." (Psalm xlv. 6.) The staff, or *emblem* of power, was sometimes put for the oracle or power itself. (Hosea, iv. 12.)

²⁶ Exod. viii. 5—xiv. 16—xvii. 9.

²⁷ Exod. xvii. 8. This rod was in such esteem with the celebrated Jacob Behmen, that he incorporated its type into the significant emblem which he had engraven and used on all occasions as his private seal. The device was "a hand reached out from heaven with a stalk of full blown lilies, being the *Raptum Magicum*, (*παῖδος, virga*) the rod of Aaron which budded; the kingdom of the lily in the paradise of God, which is to be manifested and displayed in the last time, when the end shall have been brought back to its beginning, and the circle closed." (Okely's Behmen, p. 20.)

I walk," said this pious man, and excellent Brother, "through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me."²²

Rhabdomancy, or divination by the use of a rod, was practised by the Israelites; and is termed by the prophet Hosea an abomination. It was performed²³ by setting up two sticks, which, from the efficacy of a charm, were supposed to be supernaturally directed in their fall to the right hand or to the left; and were thus accounted lucky or unlucky. Nebuchadnezzar, when consulting the gods about the invasion of Judea, used either the above, or divination by shooting an arrow into the air, and marking the direction in which it fell; by which means he determined whether to make the expedition, or to defer it to a more favourable opportunity.²⁴

Throughout the whole ancient and modern world, the symbol of power was always a staff or sceptre. In Egypt, Omnipotence was denoted by a sceptre crowned with an eye. The royal sceptre of Egypt was surmounted by the head of a jackall, as an emblem of the power of Osiris. The Tau or handled cross was also a staff, and a sacred symbol. The same idea was conveyed equally by the cypress sceptre of Jupiter, the trident of Neptune, the thyrsis of Bacchus, the club of Hercules, the caduceus of Mercury, the mace of Thor, the staff of the Brahmins, the Druid's wand, and the Persian crosier. The magical rod used in the mysteries of Osiris, and deposited in the temple of Isis, was an acknowledged substitute for the rod of Moses, which tradition said had been stolen from the college of Memphis. Even the golden twig or staff of Eneas, constituted a symbol of protection in his fearful descent into Hades, or in other words, his initiation into the mysteries. During the celebration of the Dionysiaca, "the thyrsis or rod of Bacchus was elevated, to perpetuate the remembrance of two remarkable miracles, which the god was reputed to have performed with this all-powerful instrument. On one occasion, he cast his rod upon the ground and it became a serpent; and afterwards, he struck the two rivers Orontes and Hydaspes."

²² Psalm xxiii. 4.

²³ Theophylact. in Hosea, iv. 12.

²⁴ Vid. Esak. xxi. 21.

pos with it, and the waters immediately receded, and he passed over dryshod. The assembly, which celebrated these orgies, was composed of men, women, and children of all ranks; amongst whom, during the continuance of the festival, distinction was unknown. This was intended to commemorate the manner of Israel's departing out of Egypt, accompanied by a mixed multitude from all the neighbouring nations.³¹

When mythology became converted into romance, we find the same virtue transferred to the wand of the magician; without which he would have been accounted powerless, and his art vain. Even the rod of forked hazel which, in the middle ages, was supposed, in the hand of an adept, to be capable of discovering hidden treasure, or detecting concealed springs of water, was dignified with the name of Moses' Rod.

From the above collection of facts and reasonings, we may gather whence our ancient Brethren, whose example we have copied in this particular, derived the use of wands as ensigns of office; for the custom unquestionably accompanied all the genuine Masonry which we find in the purer ages of the world. It still continues to be an emblem of authority in every grade of civilized society, though under different appellations. When wielded by a monarch it is termed a *sceptre*; in the hands of a bishop, it is a *crozier*; of a general, a *baton*; and the civic *mace* of our municipal corporations, and the constable's *staff*, have precisely and severally the same reference.

All these examples bear on the masonic rod or wand, which is used as an ensign of office or dignity; and the Director of Ceremonies in our Lodges is distinguished by a Jewel bearing *two rods saltire-wise*. This emblem teaches moderation to rulers, and obedience to the Brethren. Subordination is the broad and imperishable basis on which alone can rest the stability of any institution. This has been well expressed by Dr. Hemming in his celebrated charge to a newly-initiated Brother; and it is a lesson of such value, that every lover of the science ought to retain it in his constant recollection. "As a Mason," says this important document, "there are many excellencies of character to which your attention may be

³¹ Hist. Init. p. 107, with authorities.

particularly and forcibly directed. Among the foremost of these are *secrecy*, *fidelity*, and *obedience*.

"Secrecy may be said to consist in a inviolable adherence to the obligation you have entered into, never improperly to reveal any of those masonic secrets which have now been, or may, at any future time be, intrusted to your keeping; and cautiously to shun all occasions which might inadvertently lead you so to do.

"Your fidelity must be exemplified by a strict observance of the constitutions of the Fraternity, by adhering to the ancient Landmarks of the Order, by never attempting to extort, or otherwise unduly obtain, the secrets of a superior degree, and by refraining to recommend any one to a participation of our secrets, unless you have strong grounds to believe that, by a similar fidelity, he will ultimately reflect honour on our choice.

"So must your obedience be proved by a close conformity to our laws and regulations, by prompt attention to all signs and summonses, by modest and correct demeanour whilst in the lodge, by abstaining from every topic of religious or political discussion, by a ready acquiescence in all votes and resolutions duly passed by the Brethren, and by perfect submission to the Master and his Wardens, whilst acting in the discharge of their respective offices."

To define this authority and obedience in the clearest and most simple manner, our ancient Brethren made them the subjects of a series of general exhortations, which is one of the most valuable legacies that, in their wisdom, they have bequeathed to us. I allude to the *ancient charges*, which have been so judiciously incorporated into our book of constitutions; and which every Mason would do well to study with attention, that they may be reduced to practice whenever their assistance is needed.

These charges are sufficiently comprehensive, and embrace an epitome of every duty which the Mason is enjoined to perform. And, as a commentary on them, the Grand Lodge has thought proper, in its constitutions, to enumerate these various duties more minutely, and to make the breaches of them penal; whilst honours and rewards are held out to those worthy Brothers who have been distinguished by regularity and decorous conduct.

By such means, the proper balance is maintained in the several grades of the institution ; and by a happy blending of interests and employment, Freemasonry has existed in all ages unimpaired by the convulsions which have shattered States and Empires, and annihilated mighty nations. This consideration involves an assurance that its stability can never fail, and that it will exist till time shall be no more.

The tower sky-pointing, and the dome sublime,
 Rais'd by the mystic rules and forming power,
 Shall long withstand the iron tooth of Time,
 Yet still their fall is sure :
 But Masonry,
 The art sublimely free,
 Founded by God himself, through time shall firm endure.
 Still shall its sons their grateful voices raise,
 And joyful sound their Great Grand Master's praise.
 At thy shrine, O Masonry !
 Shall admiring nations bend ;
 In future times thy sons shall see
 Thy fame from pole to pole extend.
 To worlds unknown thy heav'n born light dispense
 And systems own thy sacred influence.

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